

A **hulu** DOCUMENTARY

# MINDING THE GAP



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PREPARED BY PICTURE MOTION

[www.MindingTheGapFilm.com](http://www.MindingTheGapFilm.com) #MindingTheGap



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. Which character or characters in *Minding the Gap* did you relate to? Why?
2. Did you grow up or do you live in a town or city that reminds you of Rockford? If not, what did you think of Rockford? What was it like growing up where you lived?
3. How did you feel when the film first flashes to the footage of Bing, Zack, and Keire skateboarding as kids? Did it spark memories of your childhood and your childhood friends? How important do you think your childhood experiences were in forming who you are now?
4. Keire thinks more about his identity as a black man as the film goes on, and links that aspect of who he is to his late father. Do you have a similar experience from your childhood that helped you relate to Keire in these moments? Do you have friends who are of a different race? Do you joke about or talk seriously or avoid talking about race amongst your friends? Why do you think this is?
5. As we see in the film, Bing recorded his friends over the course of twelve years, documenting how different their paths had become. Have your friends changed over the years? If so, how?
6. Several of the film's subjects remark about their not fitting in with their families. Have there been times where you haven't felt like you fit in with your family? Do you bond with them despite this? Are your friends like your family, and if so, how?
7. The owner of the skate shop in Rockford acts as a kind of mentor and surrogate family member for the subjects of the documentary, especially Bing. Do you have someone in your life you consider a mentor? If so, what do you consider makes a mentor, and how has having a mentor helped you?
8. Many of the female subjects, including Nina, Keire's mom, and Bing's mom all strive to be good mothers to their children while also struggling to have healthy relationships with romantic partners. What is your relationship with your mother like? Have you come to understand your mothers more as you've grown older? Do you feel like you can understand why these women don't leave their romantic partners even when the relationship becomes difficult?
9. By the end of the film, Zack reveals that he has a lot of emotions he keeps hidden. Do you feel like you also have to hide your emotions? Why do you express or not express your emotions?
10. A theme of the film is how difficult it is to talk about violence within families. Do you find this is an uncomfortable subject to talk about? Why?
11. At the end of the film, everyone seems to move on with their lives despite how much they've been through. Where do you draw your hope and resilience from when times get tough?

