

Using Movies to Talk to Teens

Juno (2007)

Rating: PG-13

IMDB user rating: 7.6/10 stars

[IMDB description](#): Faced with an unplanned pregnancy, an offbeat young woman makes an unusual decision regarding her unborn child.

Important note: as with all movies your teen watches, we recommend previewing this one to determine whether you are comfortable with the content of the film before watching it with your child.

Did you know...

- Sex creates emotional bonds between people. When Juno and Paulie had sex, their brains released the hormone Oxytocin, which increases feelings of trust and attachment between two people. It isn't surprising that the two remained a little stuck on each other.
- In real life, unlike in movies, starting a relationship with sex actually increases risks for unhealthy relationships and break-ups. Only in a fictional story is it possible to make Juno and Paulie a perfect couple, and to end the story with them together.
- In the movie, it appears that Juno gets pregnant after a single (apparently her first) act of intercourse. This is entirely possible. It only takes one time.
- In the movie, it is not clear whether Juno regretted having sex. In surveys of actual teens, 67% regret becoming sexually active.
- The movie references open and closed adoptions. An open adoption allows contact between the birth parents and adoptive parents, and often makes it easier for a child to know the identity of birth parents. A closed adoption seals the records so that the identities of the individuals involved are unknown to each other. Records then remain closed unless, after the child turns 18, both the child and birth parents decide to seek each other out.

Questions to discuss during or following *Juno* -

1. Why do you think Juno chose to have sex? Do you think having sex gave her what she wanted/what she was looking for?
2. In what ways is Juno a realistic portrayal of a modern teenager? In what ways is she unrealistic?
3. How does Juno's relationship with Paulie compare to your idea of a typical teenage relationship? How does it compare with your idea of a healthy relationship?
4. Consider Juno's parents' reactions to her pregnancy. What about their reactions is positive? What could be better?
5. How do you think parents should react if their child becomes pregnant?
6. Having watched Juno go through a teen pregnancy, consider what you would do in her shoes (or what you would have done when you were a teenager). What would you do similar to Juno? What would you do differently?
7. Think about the young couples you know. How many of those couples work like Juno and Paulie? If this movie continued into the future, do you think Juno and Paulie would get married and stay happy ever after?