

Using Movies to Talk to Teens

Catfish(2010)

Rating: PG-13

IMDB user rating: 7.0/10 stars

[IMDB description](#): Young filmmakers document their colleague's budding online friendship with a young woman and her family which leads to an unexpected series of discoveries. Catfish is also now a [TV-show on MTV](#).

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. Of particular note in this film are sexual texts shared by the subject of the documentary.

Did you know...

- It is illegal for children under 13 to create Facebook profiles, yet 38% of Facebook users in the last year are under 13.*
- 72% of teens have a social network profile and half have a public profile, visible by anyone.*
- 20% of teens have sent or posted nude pictures of themselves online.*
- 20% of 16 year olds and 30% of 17 year olds have received a sext - a sexually oriented text message or picture.*
- 63% of teens said they know how to hide what they do online from their parents (activating private browsing, or deleting history are examples of ways activity can be hidden).*
- mylol.net and teenspot.com are both free online dating sites and phone apps for teens.*
- Our blog for parents [posts frequently](#) about social networking and teenagers.
- For another real-life and highly public example, read about Notre Dame football's Manti Te'o ([this site's section "Girlfriend Hoax"](#) includes links to various sides of the story).

Questions to discuss during or following *Catfish*-

1. Why do you think people like talking to others online?
2. As you watch the movie, what "red flags" (warning signs) do you see in the budding relationship? (Try to keep track of these during the movie by yelling pause at any part that reveals a red flag Nev should have seen.) What makes these a red flag?
3. Do you think it is ever a good idea to date someone you met online? If yes, why? If no, why not?
4. Do you think there are any similarities between Nev's relationship and relationships you've seen among your friends?
5. Are people generally authentic on their social media profiles, or do they pick and choose what to share? Why might people not share everything?
6. Discuss guidelines you and everyone in your family should follow when sharing information online and when connecting with others via social media.

*Facts from internetsafety101.org.