

Using Movies to Talk to Teens

Arranged(2007)

Rating: Unrated (nothing objectionable)

IMDB user rating: 7.1/10 stars

[IMDB description](#): ARRANGED centers on the friendship between an Orthodox Jewish woman and a Muslim woman who meet as first-year teachers at a public school in Brooklyn. Over the course of the year they learn they share much in common - not least of which is that they are both going through the process of arranged marriages.

Locating the film: Although this is a lesser known film in popular culture, it is available through most public libraries as well as online sources such as Amazon Instant Video.

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...

- An arranged marriage is very different from a forced marriage. In most arranged marriages, the couple has the final say in whether the marriage takes place.
- Although the prevalence of arranged marriages is declining, they are still incredibly common in Eastern and Asian cultures. In some countries, arranged marriages are still more common than "love" marriages.
- Common traits considered in arranged marriages include the family of origin, education, profession, health, and religion. The typical arranged marriage is not based solely on political or financial gain, as portrayed in the stories of arranged marriages among western nobility.

Questions to ask during or following *Arranged* -

1. For each family, what were some of the main characteristics looked for in a suitable spouse?
2. What did Rochel look for in a suitable partner? What about Nasira? How are those similar to or different from the characteristics you think are most important in a boyfriend/girlfriend/or spouse?
3. Why might a parent be a better judge of a partner's qualities than the person in the relationship? Would you trust your parents' opinions? Why or why not?
4. Principal Jacoby (Rochel and Nasira's boss) seems to think she is more open-minded and tolerant than either Rochel or Nasira. What do you think being open-minded means to her? Do you think she is truly open-minded? Why or why not?
5. Rochel visits her cousin and decides to go to a party, giving her a glimpse of how other people find love. Why do you think she decides to leave? Compare and contrast the two ways of "finding love" offered to Rochel. What are the benefits and disadvantages of each? Is there a middle ground that combines the best of both worlds?
6. Rochel and Nasira lead their 4th grade class in a unity circle exercise. They point out that we all get to decide who is in our circle. Have you ever consciously decided not to befriend someone? If yes, what was your reason for doing so? If no, can you think of anything someone could do that would make you want to exclude them from your circle? What is the difference between inviting someone into your "circle" and being kind or respectful to someone?