

Using Movies to Talk to Teens

17 Again(2009)

Rating: PG-13

IMDB user rating: 6.3/10 stars

IMDB description: *17 Again* is about a guy whose life didn't quite turn out how he wanted it to and wishes he could go back to high school and change it. He wakes up one day and is seventeen again and gets the chance to rewrite his life.

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. This film contains several innuendos and sexual situations, however it also offers a number of good talking points for teenagers.

Did you know...

- Three in ten girls in the United States get pregnant at least once by age 20. Many of those were even using birth control at the time they got pregnant.
- Over 50% of high schoolers have never had sex. Multiple studies show, however, that almost everyone overestimates how much sex the people around them are having. We all seem to believe that "everyone else" is doing it - or doing it more often or with more people than we are.
- 56% of students say they have personally witnessed some form of bullying at school. ([source](#))
- You can read more about bullying on our [blog](#).

Questions to ask during or following *17 Again*-

1. In the world of Hollywood, Scarlett and Mike are the perfect couple - soul mates. Some people feel that if you are with your soul mate, it is okay to have sex, regardless of age or relationship status. Do you think Scarlett and Mike were ready to have sex when they were in high school? Why or why not?
2. What consequences did Scarlett and Mike face as a result of becoming sexually active while still in high school? If they had waited to have sex until they were older and already married, what effect do you think that would have had on their marriage over the next 20 years?
3. In the health class scene, the health teacher doesn't think it is realistic for high school students to avoid having sex. Do you think the teachers and adults at your school expect you to have sex? Which teachers or adults do you know who believe high school students can use self control and not have sex? What does your school teach about sex?
4. Mike/Mark stands up in health class and says that sex is "making love" and should only be part of a love relationship. He goes on to add that sex should be saved for marriage when a couple is ready "to take that love and turn it into a baby." What has being a parent taught Mike about love and sex?
5. Alex is bullied by Stan. What do you think are appropriate ways to stand up to a bully? Why is it important for friends to stand up for those who are being bullied? Do you know anyone at school who is being bullied? What should you do?
6. Mike and Stan both represent popular, athletic students, but they are very different in how they treat others, even when Mike was 17 the first time. Do the popular students in your school resemble Mike more, or Stan? In what ways?