

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BILLY MADISON

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Thoughtful questions to connect the movie to real life, growth, and good character.

1

What Is Arrested Development?

In what ways does Billy act more like a child than an adult at the beginning of the movie?

How might being protected from consequences keep someone from growing up?

2

Why Does Billy Get a Second Chance?

What would life look like for Billy if his father simply cut him off instead of giving him this challenge?

Have you ever been given a second chance? What did it mean to you?

3

What Does Billy Learn Along the Way?

Which grade (or challenge) teaches Billy one of the most important lessons?

What lesson from the movie do you think is easiest to learn? Hardest?

GO DEEPER

- What does the movie say about responsibility and earning your place?
- How is respect shown to Billy when he starts trying, even if he struggles?
- What is the difference between someone who is given something and someone who earns it?
- How can we encourage growth in ourselves and others?

4

The Power of Connection

Who chooses to support Billy when he decides to grow?

How do caring relationships make it easier to change and keep going?

5

Growing on Purpose

Billy chooses to face challenges and become someone better.

What is something in your life you want to grow in?

“It’s not about how fast you go.
It’s about not stopping.”

TRY THIS TOGETHER

- Pick one challenge you’ll each work on this month.
- Break it into small steps and celebrate progress, not perfection.
- Support each other like a team.

Remember: growth is a choice. Every day is a chance to learn, to try, and to become someone you’re proud to be.

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Understanding minds.



Strengthening connections.

You don’t have to be perfect to grow. You just have to be willing.