

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Thoughtful questions to explore difference, othering, and the longing to belong.

1 SEEING DIFFERENCE



What did you notice about the way the neighborhood first saw Edward? How did their perception change over time? What shifted?

2 OTHERING AND BELONGING



What does the movie show about how people decide who belongs and who doesn't? How might othering happen in your school, community, or online?

3 PROJECTING OUR FEARS



What fears or insecurities did the community project onto Edward? Can you think of a time when someone was unfairly blamed or misunderstood?

4 THE LONELINESS OF THE OUTSIDER



How does Edward experience loneliness in the movie? What moments felt the most isolating for him?

How can we be more aware of people who feel alone or different?

5 THE GIFTS OF DIFFERENCE



What unique gifts does Edward bring to the world? In what ways does his difference create beauty?

How can we value people for what they bring, not just how they look or act?

6 KINDNESS THAT MADE A DIFFERENCE



Who showed Edward kindness and acceptance? How did it affect him?

What can we do to be someone who helps others feel seen and safe?

GO DEEPER

- Have you ever felt like an outsider? What helped—or what would have helped?
- How does the movie challenge the idea of "normal"?
- What would the neighborhood look like if it chose empathy over fear?
- How can we celebrate differences without turning them into a novelty?
- What does the ending teach us about acceptance, love, and letting go?

TRY THIS TOGETHER



EMPATHY CHALLENGE

For one day, notice people who might feel left out. Do one small thing to include or encourage them.



LOOK CLOSER

Choose someone who seems different from you. Ask a question and learn their story.



REFLECTION JOURNAL

Write or draw about a time you felt different. What did you need? What helped?



CREATE TO CONNECT

Make something—art, music, writing—that expresses who you are. Share it if you feel ready.

REMEMBER

- We don't have to all look the same to belong to the same world. Kindness makes room for everyone.

“ People are afraid of things they don't understand. Edward is gentle. The world isn't. ”



DR. MICHAEL ZAKALIK, PSY.D.
Psychologist for Parenting | Z Psychology



Understanding
minds.



Strengthening
connections.