

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF THE PRINCESS BRIDE

STORY, REVENGE, AND LIFE AFTER A PURPOSE

Why we love stories. Why we seek justice.
And what remains when the quest is complete.

“As
you wish.”

— The Princess Bride

DISCUSSION GUIDE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What do you love most about *The Princess Bride* and why?
- 2 How does the framing story (grandfather and grandson) shape the meaning of the film?
- 3 Why do you think stories have the power to comfort and transport us?
- 4 Inigo Montoya says, “Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.” What does his quest for revenge reveal about grief and justice?
- 5 Is revenge ever justified? How does the film explore that question?
- 6 What role do friendship and loyalty play in helping the characters achieve their goals?
- 7 How do Westley and Buttercup’s relationship challenge or affirm the idea of “as you wish”?
- 8 What do you think life is like for Inigo Montoya after he finds his father’s killer?
- 9 Have you ever achieved a big goal or “quest”? What did it feel like—and what came next?
- 10 What is your favorite line or moment, and what does it mean to you?

There is a
shortage of
gooders in
this world.
— Fezzik

THINK MORE DEEPLY

- ♦ Why do we root for justice—even when it is personal?
- ♦ How do stories help us make sense of pain, loss, and hope?
- ♦ What does Inigo’s journey teach us about letting go of a purpose?
- ♦ How can we honor our past without being defined by it?
- ♦ What makes a “good story” in your life?
- ♦ What chapter are you in now?

ABOUT THE FILM

A timeless fairy tale within a story. A grandfather’s words comfort a sick boy and remind us that stories have power—to heal, to connect, and to guide us through life’s hardest moments.

THEMES AT A GLANCE

- 📖 The power of story to comfort and connect
- ⚔️ Revenge, grief, and the search for justice
- 👑 Identity and life after a lifelong purpose
- 👫 Love, friendship, and chosen family

REMEMBER

- ♥ Have fun storming the castle.
- ♥ Stories help us make sense of life.
- ♥ Good stories—and good people—matter.

MEET THE HEROES



THE REVENGE JOURNEY

1. **INJUSTICE**
A wrong is done.
A father is murdered.
2. **PURPOSE**
Revenge becomes the reason to live.
3. **OBSESSION**
It consumes thoughts, emotions, and identity.
4. **CONFRONTATION**
The moment of truth.
Justice is delivered.
5. **AFTERMATH**
The hardest part—what now?

WHY STORIES MATTER

- 🚢 **ESCAPE**
A safe place to go when life is hard.
- 🔭 **PERSPECTIVE**
See the world—and ourselves—differently.
- 💖 **EMPATHY**
Step into another’s shoes (or boots!).
- ☀️ **HOPE**
Reminds us: good can prevail over evil.
- 👥 **CONNECTION**
Stories bring us closer to those we love.

TRY THIS

- 📖 **STORY FOR STRENGTH**
Write a short story about a time you overcame something hard. What were you allies?
- 🗣️ **AS YOU WISH**
Practice saying “as you wish” with kindness this week. Notice how it changes your connections.
- 🔍 **QUEST CHECK-IN**
What are you working toward? What would you still be if you achieved it tomorrow?

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Understanding
minds.

Strengthening
connections.

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