

BBFC Education classroom resource: The Edge of Seventeen (2016)

Director: Kelly Fremon Craig



SYNOPSIS

Everyone knows that growing up is hard, and life is no easier for high school junior Nadine, who is already at peak awkwardness when her all-star older brother Darian starts dating her best friend Krista. All at once, Nadine feels more alone than ever, until an unexpected friendship with a thoughtful classmate gives her a glimmer of hope that things just might not be so terrible after all.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE FILM: BBFC AGE RATING

The film was passed at 15 for 'strong language, sex references'.

insight

LANGUAGE

There is strong language ('f**k'). Milder terms include 'bitch', 'pissed', 'retard' and 'dick'.

SEX

There are visual and verbal references to sex and masturbation.

The film also contains a few verbal references to suicide, in the context of teenagers exaggerating about their problems.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Who do you think the film is suitable for? Did you feel 15 was the right category?
- Who do you think the film might appeal to? Who would be likely to choose to watch this film? Think about the cast, the subject matter, the poster.
- Did you enjoy the film? What was your favourite part? Your favourite character?
- How about the parts and characters you liked least? Why do you think this might have been?
- What impact do you think the film might have on the audience?
- Did you learn anything from the film? If so, what?
- Would you recommend this film to a friend? Why? How would you describe the film's themes and storyline to a friend or to a member of the public who might not have heard of it?

- Do you think the film and its characters are realistic? Does it accurately portray teenage life?
- Mr Bruner is Nadine's favourite teacher and she seeks out his advice. He says she's his favourite student, but do you think this is true? What is the relationship between them?
- The film is described as a coming-of-age comedy drama. What does Nadine learn about herself during the film? Is she a better or different person at the end?
- How does Nadine's relationship with her brother change over the course of the film?
- What do you think happens to Nadine after the end of the film? Could there be a sequel?

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