



Movie Moments

Hotel for Dogs

Overview :

The movie is about two children, a brother and sister aged 11 and 16 years, who live with their foster parents (who aren't very nice at all to them). This is their 5th set of foster parents in about a year. Their parents have both died and they have secretly kept their family dog, 'Friday' (hiding from everyone to avoid having him taken away from them.)

They find an abandoned hotel inhabited by two other dogs, and let 'Friday' stay there to keep him safe. They also, along with a group of friends they make, end up rescuing a whole lot of stray dogs, against all odds.

Quotable Quotes :

"We're going to save the dogs, it's what we're supposed to do, right?"

'Why don't we wander the streets and rescue every stray we see?'

'I wish I had the guts to do what they did – they didn't make excuses – they just went out and did it – they made their own family.'

Main messages :

Kindness – The group of friends showed incredible kindness to animals that no-one else wanted. They knew them by name, fed them, washed them, trained them, played with them and gave them a safe home.

Discussion starter : How did the group of teenagers show kindness?

Family – The movie highlights the importance of family, and how family sticks together and looks after one another.

Discussion starter : Why is family important? What does a great family look like/do?

Persistence – Even though what they wanted to do looked impossible, they



never gave up trying until they found the solutions they needed. They demonstrated the power of persistence in achieving your goals.

Discussion starter : Why is it important to 'never give up'?

Acceptance – The key character in the movie is ashamed of her past and lies about having foster parents. She doesn't realise that the group of friends she has found are not shallow

– they accept her for who she is, regardless of her home life.

The group of friends in turn show incredible acceptance towards the stray dogs – they take into their care dogs that others have abandoned, including a 3-legged dog, and a number of dogs that would not be considered 'cute' or 'appealing'.

Discussion starter : Who do you think we should accept? Is there anyone we know that perhaps we haven't accepted because they are different to us?

Friendship – the others, (Dave, Mark and the girls) who joined them demonstrated great friendship. Instead of leaving them to figure out answers to their problems themselves, each friend joined in and helped them in some way. Together they achieved far more than they would have alone.

Discussion starter? How were the teenagers good friends to the orphaned brother and sister?

Courage – Even though it was scary for them to try to rescue the dogs from the pound, the teenagers went ahead and did it. Yes, what they did was wrong – but it took a lot of courage too.

Discussion starter : What did the teenagers do that was courageous?

Watch out for (aka you might want to mute or fast forward)- One of the boys says to the other 'These are fine looking women'. Right near the end of the movie, the girl kisses the boy and while not a big smooch, it's more than a peck on the cheek! (a little mature for a young pre-schooler to see).



would.

For those with faith –

The Father God revealed:

The story parallels how our Father God feels about us. God our Father adopts us into His family – He takes us in no matter who we are. Even if we are strays, orphans and rejected by society or by our family and friends – He never rejects us. Even if no-one else loved us, God still