



Discussion Guide: Hoosiers

A classic tale of redemption, this film features a volatile coach and a former star player-turned alcoholic leading a small-town basketball team on an improbable run to the Indiana high school championship game. Coach Norman Dale encounters several hurdles in his path: a feisty teacher determined to keep the best player from going out for the team, a town chock full of second-guessing fathers, and a group of athletes trying to find their path.

Take advantage of the teachable moments presented in *Hoosiers* by using these questions to help guide a discussion with your team or children.

- 1.) As a coach who's made a controversial decision do you stick with your plan or give in to the crowd and players frustration?
- 2.) Should the coach have focused more on scouting and the other team, or did he do the right thing by only focusing on his own players?
- 3.) Why does coach Dale not let the players change the play at the beginning, but in the finals lets the players change the play during the time out?
- 4.) Describe coach Dale's strategies to gaining his players' trust at the beginning? How does he overcome the initial backlash from certain players?
- 5.) Discuss Coach Dales relationship with Shooter. How does he help Shooter get back on his feet and how might this also help Shooters son?
- 6.) Was Coach Dale building a relationship with Shooter a move to benefit Shooters son or really to have an assistant coach?
- 7.) How does Coach Dale grow as a coach from the beginning to the end. Does he become more motivational and less tempered?
- 8.) What may have changed Jimmy's mind and made him reconsider joining the team? What did he like about Coach Dale that made him say "I join, he stays"?
- 9.) Which coaching relationship is more important for the team's success, his relationship with Jimmy (the star) or with Ollie (the last bench player)?

