Start the conversation...

10 Things I Hate About You (1999, 12) 11+ 94 mins

Films that flirt
Funny teen film with some sexual innuendo but mild enough to be suitable for most members.

What's this film about?
Bringing Shakespeare's The Taming of the Shrew to a setting in a modern American high school, the fast-paced and very funny 10 Things I Hate About You combines the Bard's dialogue with a brilliantly up-to-date attitude. When new boy Cameron arrives at Padua High School, he instantly falls for Bianca Stratford - but his hopes of winning her heart take a tumble when he learns that Bianca will never be allowed to date by her father until her rebellious older sister Kat has done so first. And so, without her even knowing it, the search for a suitable boyfriend for Kat begins.

Issues raised in this film

Alcohol: Party scene with lots of drinking. Kat gets very drunk, dances on a table and is sick.

Drugs: Some mild drug references including the implication that a teacher will smoke cannabis. These are comedic. No depictions of drug taking.

Peer Pressure: Kat discusses a boy pressuring her into sex.

Pregnancy: The girls' father is paranoid about his daughters becoming pregnant; this is discussed in an amusing way. Neither is pregnant.

Sex: Funny sexual innuendo throughout. Some characters discuss sex in non explicit terms; no sex is shown.

Smoking: A lead character smokes which other characters view negatively.
Before the film: Starter activity

If you had any concerns or issues who would you look to for support and advice?

Who would you talk to if there was something worrying you?

After the film: Discussion questions

1. What sorts of things is Mr Stratford trying to protect his daughters from? Why is he doing this?

2. Kat is very independent and doesn’t normally drink. Why do you think she drinks at this point in the film and what are the consequences?

3. What are your opinions of Patrick? Do you think he is a good or bad influence? Why? Make two lists of his good and bad characteristics. How does he compare to Cameron, Joey and Michael in terms of his behaviour?

Teacher notes to support the discussion questions

1. Kat and Bianca’s father seems to be very strict. He doesn’t want them dating as he fears they’ll get drunk and get pregnant. Rather than banning them from dating, what else could he do in order to protect them? Students could role play positive conversations between Mr Stratford and Bianca in which they discuss dating.

2. Kat drinks at the party because she feels uncomfortable and unhappy but it leads to some embarrassing consequences. What are the reasons that people drink and what are the consequences? You could get the students to list the good and bad effects.

3. Patrick is painted as a ‘bad guy’ at the beginning of the film but it’s he who looks after Kat when she needs him. He tells her she doesn’t have to be like everyone else. Students should get into groups to discuss and write down the good and bad points for the main male characters in the film.

Signposting

If any of your students have been affected by, or need support with any of the issues raised in the project, then signpost the following organisations:

Smoking www.talktofrank.com/drug/tobacco NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0169

Drinking www.talktofrank.com/drug/alcohol FRANK 0800 77 66 00

Drugs www.talktofrank.com FRANK 0800 77 66 00

Sex & Relationships www.nhs.uk\worthtalkingabout Worth Talking About 0800 567 123

If this film has created a great debate, get your students’ voices heard by writing reviews at www.filmclub.org