

Viewing Guide for The Big Sick

Arguments and Break Up:

Relationships can be messy...

How do you see Kumail's side of the argument?

How do you see Emily's side of the argument?

When is Kumail being unreasonable?

When is Emily being unreasonable?

Give some examples of how each might have over reacted or thrown out some "low blows"

What are the reactions of the parents/family? Where might they be coming from?

Where might you see that one's privilege or ignorance might have blinded characters from seeing the other's side? Think culture, life experience, etc.

Do partners ever "truly" understand each other? If not, what can they do to ease conflict?

How might Kumail have better shared what he was dealing with?

Why didn't he end up with Khadija? What does this say about love?

How do children of immigrants manage/navigate tradition and a modern desire to be part of the predominant culture?

What does it mean to be American? How do people/families come to understand this?

How are these families "normal" families?

The Coma

How did the "waiting room" influence the relationship between Kumail, Beth, and Terry?

What is the individual's role in figuring out their blind spots and mistakes and then how to fix them?

What is the role of parents/family in adulthood? How do we navigate these?

How do each set of parents deal with Kumail's career choices?

Is it ok to "question" the rules? What are the consequences? What would you do?

How does the film portray sex and drinking?

What role does sex play in the character's lives? Are there consequences? Why is that important?

How does Kumail's father show "romance" in his marriage? Where is love seen in Kumail's parent's marriage?

In what ways did Emily's mom have to stand up to her family when she and Ray got married? In what way has their marriage been affected by adultery? By Emily's illness?

Where do you see love in their marriage?

Does Emily's mom "arrange" Emily's and Kumail's marriage?

In what ways does Kumail learn integrity over the course of the film? Why is this an important character trait? Give examples of where you see this growth.