“School of Rock”

Starring: Jack Black
Written by: Mike White

Comprehension Questions:

* What does Dewey Finn want to be (as a career) at the beginning of the film?

* What does Dewey’s roommate, Ned, ask him to do (at the beginning of the film?)

* Who does Dewey pretend to be when he goes to the Horace Green School?

* Who is Miss Mullens?

* When Dewey takes Miss Mullens out for a “cup of coffee,” where does he take her?

* What does he want her to say “yes” to?

* How does Dewey get the kids into the Battle of the Bands after they are turned down? What does he tell the producers of the show?

* Who is “The Man” that Dewey is always talking about?

* At the end of the film, Dewey finds a way to live his values and satisfy his dream, and still succeed in the real world – How does he do this?

Discussion Questions:
* Dewey and Ned Schneebly are roommates and friends. What was their past like before the film starts? What did they do together? What changed? What is the tension between them now?

* Describe the relationship between Ned and his girlfriend, Patty.

* Why does Dewey lie and take Ned’s substitute teaching job? What does Dewey think substitute teaching is?

* What kind of a school is Horace Green Prep School? What kinds of students go there?

* Describe Miss Mullens. Why are the children afraid of her, and everyone distant with her? What does it mean to be “up tight?” Why do you think she’s so serious?

* Why does Dewey take Miss Mullens to a bar for a beer?

* Dewey talks a lot about “The Man.” What does “The Man” have to do with rock-n-roll?

* What is Dewey’s attitude about grades, gold stars, and demerits? Why do you think he feels so strongly about this? What do you think his experience in school was like – What kind of a student was Dewey Finn?

* Ned tells Dewey, “Sometimes you need to know when to quit.” Do you agree with Ned? Is being realistic – growing up - so bad?

* This story is about living your dreams, being passionate about what you do in life. What is Dewey’s dream? How does he ultimately fulfill it?

* Discuss your dreams and how realistic you think they are. Do other people agree with you or disagree with you? Why? Is there an age when you should put dreams aside and join the “real world?” Do you think it’s possible to do both? Do you know anyone who has her/his dream job?

* In what ways does Dewey change during the course of the story?
* How does he treat the students differently than other adults? How do you know he likes the students, and is concerned about them? What are some specific examples of things he does for the kids?

* Do you think he’s a good or bad influence on the students? Give examples to explain your opinion.

* How does he show his respect for their talent and abilities? Give examples.

* Dewey overhears one of the fathers yelling at his son in the parking lot when he drops him off for school. Dewey doesn’t say anything directly to the father or privately to the boy, but he does address the issue in the classroom – How? What strategy does he teach the kids to deal with their anger and frustration?

* Would you want a teacher like Dewey? Why or why not?

* If you were a parent would you want Dewey to teach your child? Why or Why not?

* “One great rock show can change the world,” according to Dewey. What is the significance of this in the story? Did anyone’s world change?

* How did Dewey ultimately experience his rock-n-roll dream?