

US Kids

A Discussion Guide

Movie Summary: From Parkland, Florida to inner city Chicago, Milwaukee and beyond, Emma Gonzalez and fellow high schoolers catalyze an unprecedented youth movement to end the gun violence epidemic in America. With the critical 2020 election looming ahead, *Us Kids* chronicles an 18-month epic coming-of-age story, giving voice to a generation of traumatized youth determined to honor the fallen and take back democracy.



Film Notes: Documentary - Director Kim A. Snyder
| US 2020 | 101 min | Grades 9–12

Guiding Questions (before you watch):

- This movie is about students who become activists in the wake of a terrible tragedy. Think about catalysts for change - what makes people fight for change?
- Bria Smith makes the point that people begin to pay attention when there is a specific tragedy. She wonders why it takes a tragedy to bring attention to an issue that impacts people of color every day in the United States. How might this begin to change?
- The teenagers in this movie are incredibly honest about the ways this tragedy impacted them. Watch the impact on Cameron, Sam, and Emma as the story continues.
- This is a movie about trauma and its impacts, but also the positive impact of trauma. How have you seen this happen and who makes the positive happen?

Reflection Questions (after you watch):

- Why youth voices are being heard now?
- Watch Youth Activists on YouTube or Instagram. One of our favorite activists is [Xive Bastida](#). What makes an effective youth activist? How are stories a part of the impact?
- What do you think success would look like for the students highlighted in this film?
- Sam says that the shooting took her "sense of safety" away. Is there a remedy for this? What might it be?
- Emma Gonzalez questions whether she is "brave" or "naive" - what do you think?
- The students who were affected by the shooting transformed their work from gun safety work to encouraging people to vote. How should students use their voices?
- Youth voter turnout in 2018 was incredibly impacted by youth activism. What will make youth voters turn out to vote in 2020?
- What does Sam worry about, and why?
- Emma is "majoring in activism" at school. What do you think that means? How are you an activist? What experiences in your life and community inspire you to take action?
- Cameron talks about watching people persevere. What does he mean by, "the future is there"? How can we impact that future, and bring it into reality?
- Would you rather be alone for the rest of your life or never have a moment of privacy?
- Sam thinks the people in the world are going to get better. Do you agree? How?