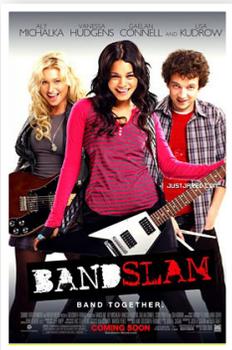




Bandslam



Synopsis

Will Burton has an uncommon chance to start his short life all over again. In a different town, at a fresh school, with the prospect of new friends, this formerly miserable teen misfit has one shot to reinvent himself as the person he always wanted to be.

Discussion Questions

- Like Will, have you ever tried to reinvent yourself? What was the result?
- On Will's first day of school in New Jersey, he asks Sa5m how big an event Bandslam was. She explained it as, "Texas High School Football big". Does/Did your school have an event or a sport that it rallies around? Is this unique to your school or to the entire region in which you live?
- We find out at the end of the film that Will's father wasn't who Will portrayed him to be? Why was Will so secretive about what his father did? What happened when people found out about Will's real father? Have you ever had to keep something secret to avoid confrontation or ridicule from others?
- Will loves music but is not a musician. He is still able to be involved with music as a band manager, which he excels at. Sa5m loves to read but we never see her write. What do you think career options are for someone who loves to read but doesn't necessarily want to be an author? What are the activities that you love the most? Have you thought about how you could incorporate these activities into what you want to do with a career someday?
- By the end of the film Will finally heard from his hero, David Bowie. Who are your heroes?



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Activities

- Do you think you know someone really well? Create a “human studies” presentation of someone you think you know really well. This can be a poster, a video, a song or any other medium of your choice. Consider giving it as a gift to the person it represents.
- Will had a real understanding of the technical aspect of putting a song together. He appreciated songs that were well-written and performed. Have you ever thought about why you love the songs you do? Try making a list of your top ten songs and writing one reason for loving each song so much.
- Try playing an instrument you’ve never picked up before or try writing a song.
- Use an online free radio station that allows you to pick music by artist (such as Pandora). Enter the name of some of Will’s favorite artists: David Bowie, Velvet Underground or Patti Smith. Listen to this selection of artists long enough to get a good feel for their music. Is this music you would generally listen to? What are the other bands the service suggests you might like? Did you like any of it? Why or why not?



Get Involved

- Charlotte does a favor to a new program at her school and volunteers to work with “the monsters”, and even recruits Will. These preschoolers are children who really enjoyed and appreciated Charlotte’s presence! Make a difference in a child’s life. Become a mentor or volunteer and work with younger kids in a place that needs your help. Like Charlotte recruit others who can help make a difference.
- Music was a huge deal for the students at Will’s new high school in New Jersey. Many schools are cutting music programs because they can no longer afford them. Learn how you can help keep music in schools at www.vh1savethemusic.com.

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