



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Developed by Heartland Truly Moving Pictures to accompany *Captain Abu Raed*, recipient of the Truly Moving Picture Award, an honored distinction given to films that unlock the vast potential of the human spirit and enable us to view stories that display courage, integrity and hope, taking entertainment to a higher level.

TrulyMovingPictures.org

www.CaptainAbuRaed.com





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One Film Can

Heartland Truly Moving Pictures, a non-profit organization, recognizes and honors films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life. We believe that one film can move us to laughter, to tears, or to make a difference. *Captain Abu Raed* is a movie that demonstrates that **One Film Can**.

Synopsis

Captain Abu Raed is a universal story of friendship, inspiration and heroism set in contemporary Jordan.

Abu Raed is a lonely janitor at Amman's International Airport. Never having realized his dreams of seeing the world, he experiences it vicariously through books and brief encounters with travelers.

Finding a discarded Captain's hat in the trash at work one day, he is followed by a neighborhood boy who spots him wearing it as he walks home. The next morning he wakes up to find a group of neighborhood children at his door, believing him to be an airline pilot. And thus the friendship begins. Happy for the company and attention, he takes the children to colorful places around the world through his fictional stories and inspires them to believe in their own ambitions.

Murad, an angry outsider to the group, vindictively attacks Abu Raed and the sense of hope he instills in the children. In his quest to prove that Abu Raed is a liar and a fake, Murad begins to discover new possibilities in his life. Meanwhile, Abu Raed's friendship with Nour, a real female pilot, begins to grow as she deals with her own set of pressures from life in modern Amman.

Captain Abu Raed is the story of everyday people intersecting across social boundaries. It is a story of dreams, friendship, forgiveness and sacrifice



Inspiration

Abu Raed is a widower who leads a fairly solitary life. He works as a janitor in an airport, but dreams of traveling to far off places. He uses the experiences found in books to take him to places he might otherwise never know.

When he finds a Captain's hat in the garbage, the children in his neighborhood assume he is a pilot and beg stories of him. He is able to retell the stories he has learned from books and from the travelers at the airport to indulge the children's fantasies.

Use the discussion points below to discuss Abu Raed's role in inspiring the youth around him.

Discussion Points

- Did the Captain's hat make Abu Raed a different person? Have you ever found escape in a similar situation where you imagine your life differently than it is? What or who was it that helped you find that escape?
- How did Abu Raed's tales inspire the children he met? How did he inspire some of the adults he met?
- How was Abu Raed inspired by others? How did the children in particular inspire Abu Raed?
- Why did it matter to the children in the film that Abu Raed was not a pilot? Does the fact that he had a different profession than they first knew make a difference to his stories or his character?
- As a child, did you meet anyone who inspired you? Who was this person and how did he or she inspire you?
- Like Abu Raed, are there ways that you are working to inspire others?



Friendships, Forgiveness and Sacrifice

Abu Raed is a lonely man. By opening his life up to others he is rewarded by new friendships, but also suffers serious consequences. His friendships change his life as well as the lives of those around him.

Use the following section to discuss the impact of friendship, forgiveness and those things that make something worth sacrifice.

Discussion Points:

- The film focuses heavily on how friendships develop and how they change. Like some of the children's friendships with Raed improved their lives, how have friendships in your life impacted you?
- How does Abu Raed's friendship differ among his friends? What does his friendship mean to Nour? How is this different than what his friendship means to Murad or to Tarik?
- Forgiveness is a theme in the film. Discuss with others different characters and how they each experienced forgiveness.
- From the beginning, Murad makes things difficult for Abu Raed. Why does Abu Raed continue to forgive Murad for his repeated attempts to make the other children doubt him?
- Murad and Abu Raed don't always have a good relationship. What is the turning point in the film and how does forgiveness play a part?
- How has forgiveness played a part in some of your relationships?
- The end of the film comes as a shock to some. How does the ending of the film make you view sacrifice as a part of friendship? Were Abu Raed's actions necessary?
- Discuss the different types of sacrifice present in different relationships in your life. What is the impact this sacrifice, big or small, had on the relationship.



Take Action

There are many important themes in *Captain Abu Raed*, including the importance of friendship as well as the destruction that domestic violence has on families. In the film, Abu Raed works to stop the violence for one family.

Abu Raed was an inspiration in the life of others. The impact he had in other's lives is the same kind of impact you can have in the lives of others if you just take the time.

Here are some suggestions to get you started:

- Like Abu Raed, become involved in the life of someone who needs positive influence or direction. It could be becoming a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters (www.BBBS.org) or another local mentoring organization, or even just taking the time to engage with those around you on a deeper level.
- Consider some stories you can share with others to open their minds to new horizons. Become a reading tutor or volunteer with a storytelling program at your local library.
- Help fight domestic abuse in your community. Domestic abuse might be closer to your life than you think. Keep an eye out for signs of domestic abuse in all its forms: emotional abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse and domestic violence. Below are some resources to learn more about abuse and how to stop it.

Signs of Abuse

www.helpguide.org/mental/domestic_violence_abuse_types_signs_causes_effects.htm

Statistics of Abuse

www.findcounseling.com/journal/domestic-violence/domestic-violence-statistics.html

Finding Help

www.ndvh.org



Truly Moving Moments

Captain Abu Raed has been honored as a Heartland Truly Moving Picture Award-winning film. This award was created to honor films released theatrically that align with Heartland's mission to recognize and honor films and filmmakers whose work explores the human journey by artistically expressing hope and respect for the positive values of life.

These award-winning movies are made up of moving and inspiring moments – those moments that cause you to think, see something in your life differently and be inspired to do something. It's what makes the movie and its message remain with you well after you've left the theater.

Think about *Captain Abu Raed*. What were the moments that stood out to you? How did they make you feel? How will they cause you to think about things differently in the future? Share those Truly Moving moments with others at www.TrulyMovingPictures.org. Simply create a membership or login if you already have one and then search the movie list for *Captain Abu Raed*. You can leave your review of the movie or thoughts about your Truly Moving Picture in the "Thoughts and Reviews" section.