



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Carl Fredrickson, a retired balloon salesman, is part rascal, part dreamer who is ready for his last chance of high-flying excitement. Tying thousands of balloons to his house, Carl sets off to the lost world of his childhood dreams. Russell, an overeager eight-year-old Wilderness Explorer who has never ventured beyond his backyard, is in the wrong place at the wrong time – Carl’s front porch. The world’s most unlikely duo reach new heights and meet fantastic friends like Dug, a dog with a special collar that allows him to speak, and Kevin, a rare 13 foot tall flightless bird. Stuck together in the wilds of the jungle, Carl realizes that sometimes life’s biggest adventures aren’t the ones you set out looking for.

A movie about commitment, common goals, and relationships!

The movie begins with Carl Fredrickson as a child in worship of a hero – Charles Muntz “world adventurer.”

- Is there someone you do not personally know but admire as a role model?
- What influence does the media have on his/her life?
- At what age did you begin to admire that person? What attracted you to them?
- Have they ever disappointed you in their behavior? If so, how did you feel?

Building and maintaining a relationship: Carl meets Ellie

- What does Carl have in common with Ellie?
- How strong is this common bond? How important is it to their long-term relationship? Give examples.
- Describe their differences. How do you think a relationship can continue with these differences?

Working together

- What were Carl and Ellie’s common goals? Did their goals change through the years?
- Give an example that shows how they worked together to reach their goals.
- All couples have disappointments. Name some of Ellie’s and Carl’s. How did they work through theirs?
- Give examples of how Carl and Ellie showed that they cared for one another.

Grief

- What happens to Carl’s life after Ellie dies? How has his relationship with Ellie changed?
 - How has Carl’s relationship with Ellie stayed the same after she dies?
- Besides Ellie’s death, what else is happening to change Carl’s life?
- What behavior tells you how Carl is handling these changes?

Perception of the elderly

- Do you know someone who is getting old? How does their age affect your relationship with them?
 - How does the world treat Carl in his older age?
- How might the workmen treat Carl differently if he were in his twenties?



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New relationships

- Carl and Russell's relationship grows in time. Why? How?
- What needs are met for Russell in his relationship with Carl?
- What needs are met for Carl in his relationship with Russell?

The desire to be liked

- Carl and Russell meet up with Dug and a pack of dogs.
 - How is Dug different than the rest of the dogs?
- What is Dug's reason for wanting to catch the big bird?
- Have you ever done something you wouldn't normally do just to please someone and hope that they will like you for it? Give examples.
- How do you think Dug felt wearing the "collar of shame?" Can friends do something like this to each other when one of them fails at something?

Reaching a life long goal

Carl:

- Carl finally makes it to Paradise Falls and meets his hero.
 - What is that like for him?
 - Compare the disappointment in how Carl's hero turns out to be with today's "idols."

Russell:

- What has Russell learned about his life through this adventure? Who is his hero and how has he been disappointed by him in the past?

True Love

- How did you feel when Carl opened Ellie's scrapbook after getting to Paradise Falls?
- What was Carl reminded of when he looked further into Ellie's scrapbook?
- In the end, what was most meaningful in Carl's and Ellie's life together?
- Ellie writes: "Thanks for the adventure, now go have a new one!" at the end of her scrapbook. What does she mean by that? How does this change Carl?

In summarizing, what do you think Ellie and Carl have in their relationship that is important to have to be happy with another person for a long time?



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