



# Discussion Guide for

## SHATTER

### Objectives

- To dramatize some of the social and physical dangers of binge drinking.
- To show how adolescents at a party can have fun without drinking.
- To demonstrate the poor choices peers make under the influence of alcohol.
- To explore how important trust is in an intimate relationship.
- To portray how peers who abuse alcohol can make very poor, even fatal, choices with respect to driving.

### Synopsis

Binge drinking-and the resulting at risk behavior among adolescents-is more and more a crucial problem in our society. Long periods of heavy drinking often result in damaged lives in personal and social contexts, as well as long-term psychological and physiological health problems. Shatter dramatizes a group of high school students at a weekend party, some of whom have been abusing alcohol, others who haven't. Stephon and Kim are in love and devoted to each other. However, both are out-of-control drinkers. This unsupervised weekend party is just another opportunity to get wasted. Stephon passes out at some point, and Kim, left alone, is irritated.

She may love Steph, but doesn't like being abandoned like this. Spider is Kim's ex-boyfriend. He is at the party and is not a drinker. He is aware of Stephon's passing out, and of Kim's vulnerability. He picks a time to make moves on Kim, and succeeds in manipulating her. Kim, who is not making good choices at this point due to her abuse of alcohol, goes off with Spider. Stephon finds out, can't forgive Kim, and ends the relationship. Kim, hurt and confused, turns to gin for comfort.

### Questions To Ask Before Viewing

1. What does "binge drinkin" mean?
2. What does it mean to shatter trust?
3. If your best friend seriously betrayed you, would you ever forgive him or her? Explain.
4. Can you really die from drinking too much alcohol? Explain.
5. Discuss: The kids who drink the most at a party have the most fun.
6. What does the phrase, "You booze, you lose," mean?
7. Is alcohol a stimulant or a depressant? Explain.
8. If a peer makes a lot of jokes about alcoholics and alcoholism, what might that indicate?

### 'Time Out' Exploring Possibilities

Spider: "C'mon, just a little bit. Get some fresh air. Plus, I'm sick of the movie, and a whole roomful of people. What do you say?"

1. What are some options for Kim at this point?
2. What are some positive and negative consequences of each option, taking into account her relationship with Stephon, her friends and herself
3. Given what you know about Kim and her situation, what do you think she will do? Why,

### Questions To Ask After Viewing

1. How does Spider exploit and manipulate Kim? (Spider, who has been drinking sodas all evening, is always eager to keep Kim's alcoholic drink filled. He sees his chance to be with her alone when Steph passes out downstairs. He smoothtalks her by reminding Kim of some of the good times they had when they were dating. Finally, he invites her outside to get some air, but has other things on his mind.)
2. Why is Kim angry at Stephon? (Stephon is a heavy drinker, and has passed out on her before. She is a social person and doesn't like being left alone.)

3. How did you feel at the very end of the video when Steph left and Kim had another drink? (Subjective.)

4. What do you think will happen to Kim in the future? (One thing we know is that she has a very serious drinking problem. If she can lick it, she will be able to move on, but as it is, she will need help to progress in life.)

5. What are some ways Steph and Kim could get help with their alcohol problem? (They could go to Alcoholics Anonymous or another program together. They could go to a detox center. They could go to a retreat specifically for alcoholics. They could go into individual or couple therapy.)

6. At the beginning of the video, a glass shatters. At the end, trust shatters. In what ways are the two types of "shattering" alike? (In both cases, what is broken can never be put back together. The glass is broken in reckless abandon and without regard for consequences, as is the trust in Steph and Kim's relationship.)

7. Why do you think Kenya has so much trouble helping Kim? (It is hard to reach someone with an addiction. She might be able to help Kim more after the story that we saw is over, since Kim might want to listen now. On the other hand, Kim might continue to look to alcohol to solve her problems.)



# Discussion Guide for

## SHATTER

8. Discuss: Stephon should forgive Kim. After all, she was just drunk and didn't know what she was doing. (Subjective. It might be noted that some behaviors, like infidelity, are often not forgivable by someone who feels deeply betrayed.)

9. Why does Bird ask Kim the name of the largest river in Africa? (Bird was kidding, asking her to name "the Nile" and saying, "Oh, yeah, de Nile." Bird knows Kim is in denial about her problems with alcohol. Kim, however, is so drunk she doesn't get the joke.)

10. Bird doesn't drink, and doesn't understand why people would want to drink so much. What are some ways he has a good time at the party without alcohol? (Bird likes to kid around, to play sports and games, to watch movies. He is a social animal who enjoys himself and others with no need for substances.)

### Additional inquiry

- When friends at a party offer you an alcoholic drink, what are some ways to refuse it?
- What are some ways you could get help if you decided you or a friend had a drinking problem?
- Drinking and driving is a deadly combination. Why doesn't Stephon, who is otherwise a likable and intelligent person, seem to realize this?
- What are 5 ways alcohol abuse can ruin the life of someone your age?
- Alcohol is a major factor in adolescent suicide, violence, traffic accidents, and AIDS. Why is this?

### Programs Details

#### Length:

16 minutes

#### Subject Areas:

Health & Guidance

#### Audience Levels:

Junior-Senior High

#### Order Number:

1-9112SG

### Canadian Learning Company

95 Vansittart Avenue

Woodstock, ON N4S 6E3

[Info@canlearn.com](mailto:Info@canlearn.com)

Tel:(800) 267 2977

Fax:(519) 537 1035

