



Racing Dreams

Film Study Guide

Director: Marshall Curry

1999 | Documentary | 90 Minutes | USA | English | Rated PG

http://www.marshallcurry.com/racing_dreams.html

Synopsis: Academy Award® -nominated director Marshall Curry (*Street Fight*) returns with an equally exhilarating and emotional documentary following a year in the life of three top go-kart racers as they compete for the national championship. Barely 13 years old, Anna, Josh, and Brandon—and their families—must find out if they truly have what it takes to make it to NASCAR. *Racing Dreams* won the top documentary prize at the Tribeca Film Festival.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. What was your “dream job” growing up? What did you tell people you wanted to be when you grew up? Now that you are getting older, has your dream changed, or stayed the same? If it has changed, why do you think it has?
2. Do your parents/family/community support your extracurricular activities? If not, why? And if so, how does their support motivate you?

3. What perceptions, if any, do you have about the Southern states in America or “middle America”?
4. The teenage students in the film – Anna, Josh and Brandon – sometimes ignore their studies and schooling to practice racing. Do you think this is appropriate? Would you give up school to follow a dream?
5. Some of the parents of the subjects in Racing Dreams sacrifice time and money to support their children’s racing. What does your family sacrifice to follow dreams or goals?
6. What did you think of the way the subjects lived? How far away from your world in Chicago is their life and day-to-day?
7. Have you seen any other documentary films? Do you like them? Why or why not?
8. There is a lot of danger in car racing. Do you think the students understand how dangerous it is, and how even more dangerous professional racing is? Why or why not?
9. Who was the most interested character to you? Why did this person stick out to you in the story?
10. Do you consider car racing a sport? Why or why not?