



#9598

TOO SOON FOR JEFF

FILMS FOR THE HUMANITIES & SCIENCES, 1996

Grade Levels: 7-12

44 minutes



DESCRIPTION

Jeff, a high school debater with dreams of college, decides to take on the responsibility of fatherhood when his girlfriend becomes pregnant. Note: some explicit language. Based on the book "Too Soon for Jeff" by Marilyn Reynolds.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- ★ Standard: Understands the fundamental concepts of growth and development
 - Benchmark: Understands how physical, mental, social, and cultural factors influence attitudes and behaviors regarding sexuality (See Instructional Goals #1 and 2.)
- ★ Standard: Understands the relationship of family health to individual health
 - Benchmark: Knows the effects of teenage pregnancy on teenagers, their children, their parents, and society (See Instructional Goal #3.)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To stimulate discussion of teen sexual responsibility.
2. To present a high school senior's conflicting emotions and options when dealing with responsibility and choices.
3. To illustrate the impact of an unplanned teen pregnancy on the couple and their immediate family members.

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. scholarship | 10. condom |
| 2. freak out | 11. horny |
| 3. pace | 12. caddy |
| 4. abortion | 13. neonatal |
| 5. big stakes | 14. intensive care |
| 6. condom | 15. childbirth |
| 7. bugs me | 16. preemies |
| 8. adoption | 17. mole |
| 9. abortion | |

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Hypothesize the meaning of the title "Too Soon for Jeff." Consider the difference between too soon, on time, and too late.
2. List personal goals to accomplish this year and in your lifetime. Consider the negative effects of lifetime goals happening too soon.

AFTER SHOWING

► Discussion Items and Questions

1. What was Jeff and Christy's relationship like?
2. What kind of relationship did Jeff have with his father? What kind of a man was his father? How did this effect Jeff? Why did Jeff not want to be like his dad?
3. Why was Jeff planning to break up with Christy? What happened when he first tried to break up with her? How did the actual break up differ from what Jeff had planned? How did their relationship deteriorate?
4. How did Christy feel about the pregnancy? How did Jeff feel? In what ways were Jeff and Christy each responsible for the pregnancy?
5. How did Jeff's mom find out Christy was pregnant? How did Jeff's mom and Christy's dad react to the pregnancy?
6. What were Jeff's feelings about abortion and adoption? What were Christy's feelings? Why did Jeff get in more trouble with his friends?
7. What was stressful about Christy's labor? How did Jeff's mom and Christy's dad handle the situation? How did Jeff handle it?
8. What were Jeff's goals for the future before Christy was pregnant? How did Christy's pregnancy change his plans?
9. What arrangements did Jeff and Christy make after the baby was born? What was Jeff's role in Ethan's care?

► Applications and Activities

1. Evaluate Jeff and Christy's choices. Consider how they handled birth control, finding out Christy was pregnant, and options during the pregnancy. Rewrite the story to include decisions you would have made.
2. Write a brief overview of Jeff, Christy, and Ethan's life from here on. Consider one year from now, ten years from now, and when Ethan is a teenager.
 - a. What will Christy and Jeff's relationship be like?
 - b. How would a step-parent change their current arrangement? Will Ethan have siblings?
 - c. What kinds of jobs will Christy and Jeff have? What regrets will they have?
 - d. What kind of advice will they give Ethan when he is a teenager?
3. Research methods of birth control. Consider the effectiveness of each method in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Evaluate who is responsible for birth control.
4. List the physical and emotional benefits and drawbacks of choosing sexual abstinence. Write a brief position paper stating personal values.
5. Survey the classroom and local community regarding relationships. Consider how to know you're in love, if sex will bring you closer to your partner, and how to know when you are ready to have sex.

- Investigate alternatives to an unplanned pregnancy. Consider the benefits and drawbacks to abortion, adoption, marriage, single parenting, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

RELATED RESOURCES



- [Teenage Parents: Their Lives Have Changed #2112](#)



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION**

<http://www.teenpregnancy.org/teen/>

Includes research, resources, and information regarding teen pregnancy for teens, their parents, and teachers. Includes on-line surveys and quizzes.

teenpregnancy.org



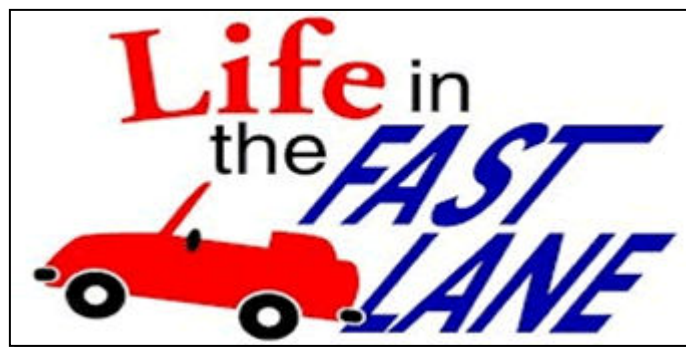
TEEN PREGNANCY
a documentary
photos by tahra makinson-sanders

- **THE PHOTOJOURNALIST'S COFFE HOUSE**

<http://www.intac.com/~jdeck/index3.html>

Includes photo documentaries titled Teen Pregnancy and Teen Sexuality. The Teen Pregnancy documentary focuses on two pregnant teens and the federal and private agency programs that provide them services.

- **LIFE IN THE FAST LANE**



<http://www.teenageparent.org>

Created by the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare, this website is designed to help deter teen pregnancy. Includes sections for teens, teachers, and parents. Available in English and Spanish.