

TALK ABOUT IT!

Discussion Guide

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR DREAMS AND WISHES?

THOUGHTS:

Each one of us and every positive organization has dreams and wishes. Some people hope to be a professional success. Others dream and aspire to help someone along life's way. Princess Tiana is a great example of a person who had a dream instilled in her by her parents. Their hard work and positivity help to ensure that she realizes her dreams. She also shares her dreams with others by inspiring everyone around her to put their best foot forward in everything that they do. Not just young people and children have dreams. Ask your parents, grandparents, neighbors and friends what their dreams are for their lives!

YOUR THOUGHTS:

WHERE DID YOUR DREAMS COME FROM?

THOUGHTS:

Now that is a good question! Where do dreams originate? Dreams are not just what we experience at night when we sleep. Dreams are really what we work toward in our lives when we are wide-awake. Dreams are powerful ideas that help people, motivate us, and make us determined to be our best, even when it is against real challenges and problems. The beauty of a dream is that it doesn't matter where you come from or if you are royalty or a prince or princess. All of us can dream and all of us can work hard to accomplish our dreams. Tiana's dream comes from her hard working mother and father. But her dreams don't end there. Tiana's dreams come from her own desire to be positive, focused, and kind to others, and committed to what she knows is best for her life.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU TO DREAM?

THOUGHTS:

Tiana's dreams were influenced by her mother, Eudora, and her father, James. But along the way, other people like her fairy godmother, Mama Odie, and her friend Raymond, the firefly, helped to influence her dreams. Positive influences are always welcome. Negative influences, like those of Dr. Facilier, master of short cuts and tricks, must be avoided. It is important that people who influence you are positive and helpful.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

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ARE DREAMS ALONE ENOUGH?

THOUGHTS:

If Tiana only has a dream without hard work, she would never realize her dreams. Dreams alone are not enough. There is no substitution for good old-fashioned hard work. Hard work moves our dreams from thoughts to reality. Tough times and challenges require each of us and the organizations that try to do good to dig a little deeper into our characters to increase the chance of success. Are you just a dreamer or are you a dreamer and a hard worker?

YOUR THOUGHTS:

WHAT ROLE DOES HARD WORK PLAY IN MAKING YOUR DREAM COME TRUE?

THOUGHTS:

Hard work was the biggest thing for Tiana. Anyone who wants to accomplish great things has to have some dreams and imagination. They also have to work hard to make them come true. If Tiana had not worked hard and encouraged those around her to work hard, she would never be the success that she is. Ask yourself, am I really working hard enough to make my dreams come true for my family, my community, or for me? If you belong to an organization that dreams about improving lives, are you living up to the value of hard work in making those dreams come true.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

WHAT DOES COOPERATION MEAN?

THOUGHTS:

One of the things that Tiana and Naveen learn in their travels is the importance of cooperation. Together, we can always do more than we can when we act alone. Cooperation and teamwork lead to success. Whether your goal is to become a jazz musician, a princess, a great cook, a doctor, a teacher, or whatever good thing you desire for your life, cooperation and teamwork always make things better. If you are on a sports team or work together on school projects, ask yourself if you are cooperating with others to do good and positive things.

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WHAT PRACTICAL ACTIONS CAN YOU TAKE TO MAKE YOUR DREAMS COME TRUE?

THOUGHTS:

Tiana always knew that saving for her dreams was a good thing. Louis, the trumpet-playing alligator, practiced his jazz in the bayou so that he would be ready for the “big time” of New Orleans when the opportunity came along. Are you really working and practicing to make your dream a reality? Hard work, patience, truthfulness, and commitment to your community are some of the ways that we can make our dreams come true.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT HARD WORK CAN MAKE YOU SUCCESSFUL. WHAT THINGS INSPIRE YOU TO WORK HARD?

THOUGHTS:

In school, and all activities, we do better when we work hard. The truth is that you can even have fun when you work hard because the enjoyment of success after hard work is the real reward! Tiana, Raymond, and even Naveen have success because they worked hard and dreamed big. Whether it is helping people, learning a new way to solve a problem, or succeeding in your hobbies, ask yourself what things inspire you to work harder each day.

YOUR THOUGHTS:

LOUIS HAS A PASSION FOR JAZZ. HE WORKS HARD TO BECOME A REAL PRO. WHAT ARE YOUR PASSIONS?

THOUGHTS:

A passion is anything about which you care deeply. Louis’ passion is jazz, and to have a full life and a healthy community, we need to be passionate. Tiana’s passion was cooking. Louis and Naveen were passionate about all music, and that became the root of their friendship. Mama Odie was passionate about helping Tiana and Naveen when they were in a sticky situation. Ask yourself if you are passionate about anything. Listen to some music and see if you can enjoy it the way that Louis, Raymond, Naveen, and Mama Odie did when they dance and sing.

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HOW ARE YOU MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR OTHERS WITH YOUR HARD WORK?

THOUGHTS:

Life is more than just about our dreams and wishes. Other people have dreams too. What are you doing to help other people realize their dreams? Are you a good friend? Do you have an interest in other people's goals, dreams and passions? Raymond the firefly was a little guy with a big personality, a lot of character, and tons of courage. In what way are you able to take your small gifts and improve the lives of others?

YOUR THOUGHTS:

WHAT COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WHERE YOU LIVE HELP TO MAKE PEOPLE'S LIVES BETTER?

THOUGHTS:

In communities across the nation, groups like the Mocha Moms, the Urban League, the National Fatherhood Initiative, and so many others are making a difference by serving people. Tiana's community was stronger because people like her mother, Eudora, and her father, James, demonstrated their commitment by the way they live. Ask yourself if you are doing everything you can do to make your community a better place. Find out if there is an organization where you live that does things for people who need a helping hand. Wait until you see how much fun Raymond and Mama Odie have when they help Tiana, Naveen, and Louis!

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