

1981

Discussion Guide

1. In **1981**, director Ricardo Trogi transforms the story of his childhood into an entertaining and uplifting film. Discuss how music, editing, sound effects and visual effects are used to enhance the storytelling.
2. Many of the problems Ricardo faces are relevant to adolescents everywhere. What are some of these problems and how does he cope with them? How did you cope with them when you were 11-years-old?
3. **1981** illustrates the popularity of consumer goods in the early 80's. Have you noticed a shift in consumer culture since then? If yes, in what way has it changed?
4. Honesty is one of this story's most central themes. What does Ricardo learn about honesty in the end? What other life lessons does he learn that year?
5. In an interview about the film, Trogi described life as an 11-year-old: "You don't control anything. You're in love with a girl, but you aren't able to tell her. You want to buy things, but you don't have any money. It's an interesting period because all you can do is dream." How does Trogi express this perspective in the film?
6. **1981** is chock-full of retro details – from Ricardo's Star Wars bed set, to the first generation Sony Walkman. What other 80's paraphernalia did you spot?