

Before You Watch **Discussion Questions**

The week prior to showing *Respond to Domestic Violence* let students know about the topic that the class will discuss in that class. Tell them that together as a class they will be talking about how the characters in the episode respond to the situations in the episode, and about the City services available to support all New Yorkers. Remind the Site Coordinator about the upcoming episode topic and ask about any additional resources the site may have available for community members dealing with domestic violence. Contact the WSNYC Team with any additional questions.

1. In this episode, you will meet a group of actors in a theater. They are rehearsing—practicing their lines. Have you ever acted in a play or film or something else? What was it? What role did you play? Did you practice your lines?
2. Have you ever practiced your lines for something in real life—for example, before saying something important to somebody? What was the situation? What lines did you practice?
3. What about practicing lines in English. Do you ever practice saying things in English (outside of class) before using the words in real life? When do you practice? Where do you practice?
4. In the episode, the actors are practicing their lines in a play about domestic violence. It's a serious subject. In the play, one of the characters doesn't have immigration papers, and she is abused. What do you think she can do? Who do you think can help her?
5. Where can somebody get information about services for victims of domestic violence?

Let's watch *Respond to Domestic Violence* and see what we learn about this important subject.

After You Watch

Discussion Questions

Domestic violence is a difficult subject. It can be helpful to talk about what the characters learn in the story. This steers the discussion to the characters in the episode and not the students. At the same time, it helps people to share their feelings and learn from the episode.

What the Characters Learn: Grandpa

- What does Grandpa learn about his grandson? What does Grandpa learn about his daughter-in-law? What does Grandpa learn about his son? What does he do to respond to domestic violence? What do you think about his actions?

What the Characters Learn: Billy's Mom

- What does Billy's Mom learn about getting help? Who helps her? How do they help her? What do you think she should do?

What the Characters Learn: Billy's Aunt

- What does Billy's aunt think when Grandpa (her father) tells her that Billy was beating his bear? What does she think that Grandpa should do or not do? Does she change her mind? How and why? What do you think about her actions? Why does the aunt tell the policewoman that she and Billy's Mom have a friend who is a victim of domestic violence? Why do you think they say "friend"?

What the Characters Learn: Policewoman

- What does the policewoman tell Billy's Mom about her rights? What advice does she give Billy's Mom? Why does the actor who plays the policewoman, Renata, start to cry after the rehearsal of the police office scene?

There may be people in the class who are or who have been victims of domestic violence, or who know victims. Let the students know that there are experts to talk to and who have good information to help. Refer students to **311** and the Domestic Violence Hotline: **1-800-621-4673** or to www.nyc.gov/domesticviolence.