

come from away follow along questions

Come from away follow along questions are a fantastic way for audiences to deepen their understanding and engagement with the powerful true story told in the musical *Come From Away*. This guide is designed to equip you with a comprehensive set of prompts and discussion starters, whether you're watching a filmed performance, reading the script, or simply wanting to explore the emotional and thematic resonance of this beloved show. We'll delve into character motivations, the impact of shared experience, the resilience of the human spirit, and the profound sense of community that emerges from unexpected circumstances. Get ready to explore the heart of *Come From Away* with insightful questions that encourage reflection and connection.

- Introduction to *Come From Away* and the Purpose of Follow Along Questions
- Understanding the Narrative and Key Events
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Understanding the Narrative and Key Events in *Come From Away*

The musical *Come From Away* tells the extraordinary true story of what happened when 7,000 stranded passengers from all over the world were unexpectedly landed in Gander, Newfoundland, on September 11, 2001. The town, with a population of only 10,000, opened its heart and homes to these unexpected guests. Understanding the sequence of events and the initial reactions of both the "Come From Aways" and the locals is crucial to appreciating the unfolding narrative. Many viewers find that having structured prompts, or "follow along questions," helps them to fully grasp the magnitude of the situation and the immediate challenges faced.

The Immediate Impact of the Grounding

When the news of the September 11th attacks broke, the world was in shock. For the passengers on those 38 diverted flights, the situation was even more disorienting and

frightening. Asking questions about their initial feelings and the information they received can highlight the sense of uncertainty and fear that permeated those first hours. What were the passengers told? How did they react to the news? What were their immediate concerns and anxieties?

Gander's Response and Hospitality

The town of Gander and its surrounding communities became unlikely heroes in the wake of the crisis. Their selfless generosity in sheltering, feeding, and comforting thousands of strangers is the emotional bedrock of the musical. It's important to consider the practical and emotional aspects of this response. What were the immediate logistical challenges faced by the people of Gander? How did they mobilize to provide for so many? What does their hospitality reveal about the nature of community in times of crisis?

The Passage of Time and Adaptation

The stranded passengers and their hosts spent nearly five days together. This period allowed for relationships to form and for the initial shock to give way to a shared experience of vulnerability and mutual support. Examining the evolution of interactions over these days is key. How did the initial awkwardness between the "Come From Aways" and the Newfoundlanders evolve? What activities helped to bridge the cultural and emotional divides?

The Departure and Lasting Connections

The eventual reopening of airspace and the departure of the flights marked the end of this unique interlude. However, the bonds formed left an indelible mark on everyone involved. Understanding the emotions surrounding the farewells and the subsequent outreach is vital. What were the emotions associated with the departure? How did the musical depict the lasting impact of this experience on both groups?

Exploring Character Development and Relationships in Come From Away

The strength of *Come From Away* lies in its rich tapestry of characters, both the stranded travelers and the welcoming locals. The musical masterfully portrays individual journeys of fear, hope, and connection. Using follow along questions allows for a deeper exploration of these characters, their motivations, and the complex relationships that bloom in the most unexpected circumstances.

Key "Come From Away" Characters and Their Journeys

The musical features a diverse group of passengers, each with their own story and reasons for travel. Focusing on their individual arcs provides insight into the human experience of displacement and shared trauma. Who are some of the most memorable "Come From Aways"? What personal struggles or fears do they bring with them? How do their experiences in Gander change their perspectives or outlook on life?

Diane and Nick

The romance between Diane and Nick is a central thread, showcasing how love can blossom even in the shadow of global tragedy. Their story highlights the search for connection and comfort. What initially draws Diane and Nick together? How does their relationship evolve throughout their time in Gander? What does their eventual decision to stay together signify?

Kevin and Kevin (J.T.)

The dynamic between the two Kevins offers a different perspective on relationships and identity. Their journey in Gander becomes a crucible for their connection. How do the two Kevins initially interact? What challenges do they face as a couple during this time? How does their experience in Gander affect their understanding of their relationship?

Hannah and Aliotti

Hannah's story, particularly her worry for her son, brings a profound emotional weight to the musical. Her interactions with Aliotti, the Egyptian pilot, highlight unexpected human connections. What is Hannah's primary concern at the beginning of the musical? How does her interaction with Aliotti provide her with solace? What does this relationship represent about bridging cultural divides?

Beulah and Gander's Locals

The Newfoundlanders are not just a collective; they are individuals with their own lives and contributions. Understanding their perspectives and interactions with the "Come From Aways" is crucial. What are some of the prominent local characters and their roles in assisting the stranded passengers? How do the locals' personal experiences and philosophies shape their actions? What do their interactions reveal about the spirit of Newfoundland?

The Evolution of Relationships

The short but intense period in Gander fosters rapid and profound relationship development. Examining these shifts reveals the power of shared experience. How do initial strangers become friends or even more? What specific moments or conversations seem to be turning points in the formation of these bonds? How does the musical portray the lasting impact of these new relationships after everyone departs?

Delving into the Thematic Core of Come From Away

Beyond the compelling narrative and engaging characters, *Come From Away* explores universal themes that resonate deeply with audiences. Using follow along questions can help unpack these layers of meaning, prompting deeper reflection on the human condition and the power of collective action.

Community and Belonging

The core of *Come From Away*'s message revolves around the creation of community in the face of adversity. The town of Gander, with its ingrained sense of hospitality, becomes a temporary but profound home for the stranded travelers. What does the musical say about the importance of community? How is the concept of "home" explored in the context of being "Come From Aways"? What acts of kindness or support exemplify the building of community?

Resilience and Hope

In the midst of global tragedy, the musical highlights the remarkable resilience of the human spirit. Despite the fear and uncertainty, a sense of hope perseveres. How does the musical portray resilience in the face of overwhelming events? Where do characters find hope when they are feeling lost or scared? What examples of individual and collective resilience are most striking?

Empathy and Understanding

The musical emphasizes the power of empathy to bridge divides, whether they are cultural, geographical, or emotional. The interactions between the "Come From Aways" and the Newfoundlanders often involve breaking down preconceived notions. How does the musical demonstrate the importance of empathy? What are some instances where characters actively try to understand each other's perspectives? How does this foster a sense of connection?

The Impact of Shared Experience

The unique circumstances of being stranded together create a powerful shared experience that transcends individual differences. This shared ordeal becomes a catalyst for profound connection. How does the musical illustrate the bonding power of shared experience? What are the common emotions or challenges that unite the "Come From Aways" and the locals? How does this shared experience alter their perspectives on the world and on each other?

The "New Normal" and Moving Forward

After the initial crisis, the musical touches upon the process of returning to a "new normal" and carrying the lessons learned forward. This aspect adds a layer of enduring relevance. What does it mean for the characters to return to their lives after this experience? How are they changed by their time in Gander? What lasting messages do they take away that might influence their futures?

Appreciating the Impact of Music and Staging in Come From Away

The innovative staging and poignant music of Come From Away are integral to its storytelling. The way the narrative is presented amplifies the emotional impact and thematic depth. Using follow along questions can draw attention to these crucial elements.

The Role of Music in Conveying Emotion

The score by Irene Sankoff and David Hein is not just background; it's a vital storytelling tool, often reflecting the inner lives of the characters and the emotional arc of the narrative. What are some of the songs that particularly resonate with you? How does the music help to convey the feelings of the characters, such as fear, joy, or longing? Are there specific musical motifs that are repeated and what significance might they hold?

Minimalist Staging and its Effectiveness

The production's famously minimalist staging, utilizing a single set and actors playing multiple roles, is a deliberate choice that enhances the focus on the human stories. How does the minimalist set design contribute to the overall impact of the musical? How do the actors' quick changes and shifts between characters enhance the storytelling? What does this approach allow the audience to focus on?

The Power of Ensemble Performance

The success of *Come From Away* relies heavily on the seamless ensemble work, where actors embody multiple characters and contribute to the collective spirit. What does the ensemble's performance communicate about the sense of unity and shared purpose? How do the actors manage to portray so many different characters and maintain the flow of the narrative? What is the impact of seeing the actors embody both the "Come From Aways" and the locals?

Creating a Sense of Place

Despite the minimalist approach, the musical effectively creates a vivid sense of place – Gander, Newfoundland. The music, dialogue, and the actors' performances all contribute to this atmosphere. How does the musical evoke the specific atmosphere and culture of Newfoundland? What elements of the performance make you feel transported to Gander? How do the accents and the spoken language contribute to the authenticity of the setting?

Connecting the Story to Real-World Experiences

The power of *Come From Away* extends beyond the theater, offering valuable lessons and parallels to real-world events and human experiences. Exploring these connections through follow along questions can deepen the audience's appreciation of the musical's enduring relevance.

Historical Parallels and Shared Humanity

While *Come From Away* is rooted in a specific event, its themes of kindness, resilience, and overcoming fear echo throughout history and in contemporary global challenges. What historical events or personal experiences do you recall that share similar themes of unexpected hospitality or community response to crisis? How does the musical's focus on individual stories help us understand larger societal events? In what ways does the story remind us of our shared humanity, regardless of background or circumstance?

The Impact of Acts of Kindness

The musical serves as a powerful testament to the ripple effect of small acts of kindness. The generosity of the people of Gander had a profound impact on the stranded passengers. How have acts of kindness, whether witnessed or experienced, impacted your own life or community? What does the musical suggest about the transformative power of extending kindness to strangers? Are there specific examples in the musical that illustrate this point particularly well?

Navigating Fear and Uncertainty

The context of September 11th inherently involves themes of fear and uncertainty. The musical explores how individuals and communities navigate these emotions. How do the characters in the musical cope with fear and uncertainty? What strategies or perspectives help them to overcome these feelings? How can the lessons learned from their experiences be applied to navigating fear and uncertainty in our own lives?

The Importance of Openness and Inclusivity

The "Come From Away" experience was made possible by the town's openness and inclusivity. This is a crucial element that allowed for the creation of a welcoming environment. What does the musical teach us about the benefits of being open to new experiences and people? How does inclusivity play a role in building stronger communities? What are the potential consequences of a lack of openness and inclusivity?

Post-Viewing and Discussion Prompts for Come From Away

After experiencing Come From Away, engaging in discussion is a wonderful way to consolidate understanding and share insights. These follow along questions are designed to facilitate meaningful conversations and encourage deeper contemplation of the musical's impact.

Personal Reflections and Emotional Responses

What emotions did Come From Away evoke in you? Were there specific moments or characters that particularly moved you? How did the musical's narrative impact your perspective on the events of September 11, 2001, and the days that followed? What is the most memorable image or feeling you are left with after watching or reading about the musical?

Analyzing Character Motivations and Growth

Which character's journey did you find most compelling and why? How did the experience in Gander change the "Come From Aways"? Were there any characters whose growth or transformation surprised you? How did the interactions between different characters influence their individual development?

Discussing Thematic Significance

What do you believe is the central message of *Come From Away*? How effectively did the musical explore themes of community, resilience, and empathy? Which of the musical's themes do you find most relevant to today's world? How does the story challenge or reinforce your own understanding of these themes?

Evaluating the Production Elements

How did the music and lyrics contribute to the emotional impact of the story? What did you think of the minimalist staging and its effect on the storytelling? Did the actors' ability to play multiple roles enhance or detract from your experience? How effectively did the production capture the spirit of Newfoundland?

Connecting to Broader Ideas

What lessons can we learn from the people of Gander and their response to crisis? How does *Come From Away* inspire you to be more open, empathetic, or community-minded? If you were a "Come From Away," how do you think you would have reacted to the situation? What questions does the musical leave you with about the nature of humanity and connection?

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary purpose of the 'come from away follow along questions'?

The primary purpose is to enhance audience engagement and understanding of the musical *'Come From Away'* by providing prompts for reflection, discussion, and personal connection to the story and themes presented.

What kind of topics do these 'follow along questions' typically cover?

These questions usually delve into the show's exploration of empathy, community, resilience, the impact of unexpected events, the kindness of strangers, and the human experience of connection in times of crisis.

Who would find these 'come from away follow along

questions' most useful?

They are most useful for audience members who want to deepen their appreciation of the musical, educators using the show in curriculum, theater groups analyzing the production, or individuals seeking to reflect on the story's powerful messages.

Are there specific questions that focus on the historical context of 9/11 as depicted in the musical?

Yes, some questions often focus on how the musical portrays the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the grounding of flights, and the experiences of those affected, prompting reflection on the historical significance and emotional impact.

How do the 'follow along questions' encourage audience participation?

They encourage participation by prompting personal anecdotes, opinions on character decisions, discussions about the show's structure and music, and explorations of how the story's themes resonate with individual experiences.

Can these questions be used for group discussions after watching the musical?

Absolutely. They are ideal for facilitating post-show discussions, whether in a formal setting like a classroom or an informal one among friends, to share interpretations and explore the show's lasting impact.

What makes the 'come from away follow along questions' trending and relevant?

They are trending because 'Come From Away' itself remains a popular and critically acclaimed musical with enduring themes of hope and unity, making the questions relevant for new audiences and for those revisiting the show and its powerful messages.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles that could be related to "Come From Away" follow-along questions, with descriptions:

1. *Islands of Connection*: This book explores the profound impact of shared experiences on forging human bonds. It delves into how unexpected circumstances and geographical isolation can foster deep empathy and lasting friendships. The narratives within highlight the resilience of the human spirit when communities come together in times of crisis.

2. *The Art of Unexpected Hospitality*: This title focuses on the generous and open-hearted reception of strangers in times of need. It examines the cultural and psychological underpinnings of hospitality, particularly in communities facing unforeseen challenges. The

book offers insights into how kindness can create powerful ripples of positive change.

3. *Stories from the Rock*: This collection of personal essays and interviews captures the unique spirit and resilience of Newfoundland and Labrador. It highlights the warmth, humor, and unwavering generosity of its people. The stories shared offer a glimpse into the fabric of a community deeply connected to its land and its traditions.

4. *In the Shadow of the Skies*: This title contemplates the emotional and logistical ripple effects of major global events on local communities. It examines how moments of collective anxiety and uncertainty can reveal underlying strengths and shared humanity. The book explores the narratives of those who were directly impacted and how they navigated the unforeseen.

5. *The Weight of Belonging*: This book investigates the complex emotions associated with being both an outsider and an insider. It looks at how shared vulnerability can shift perspectives on belonging and community. The narratives explore the process of integration and the evolving sense of home for those displaced.

6. *Navigating the Uncharted*: This title delves into the strategies and adaptations people employ when faced with unfamiliar and challenging situations. It highlights the innovative problem-solving and collaborative efforts that emerge under pressure. The book emphasizes the courage it takes to forge a path forward when the familiar is disrupted.

7. *Echoes of Shared Humanity*: This work explores the universal threads that connect people across different backgrounds and experiences. It examines how moments of collective crisis can amplify our shared vulnerabilities and aspirations. The book celebrates the inherent goodness that can surface when individuals are called upon to support one another.

8. *The Kindness Contagion*: This title focuses on how acts of generosity and compassion can spread and inspire further good deeds. It examines the psychological and social mechanisms behind altruism and its ripple effects. The book uses real-world examples to demonstrate the powerful and transformative nature of kindness.

9. *When the World Stopped*: This book offers a retrospective look at periods of significant global disruption and their impact on daily life and human interaction. It highlights the adaptations, resilience, and evolving relationships that emerge from such events. The narratives explore how communities rebuild and redefine themselves in the wake of the unexpected.

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