



## GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Silence is a recurring theme in this film. What is significant about silence as this story plays out? Why do you think this film is called Silent Rose?

“Conversations were supposed to be the solution, but we are just stuck” -- this seems to be a theme for the students, the teachers and even the relationship between Marquel and Shatira. Do you feel this is true for you or your experiences? How do we get “unstuck”?

How did you feel about the principal’s reaction to Marquel, after she saw him leading Ms. Karen’s class? Do you think she should have been so angry? Do you think she singled him out unfairly?

What went wrong with the conversation between the principal and Marquel when he went to see her? What can we learn from that exchange?

What can teachers and educators do more of, to support racial justice?

Ms. Karen talks about non-violent protests - specifically the “White Rose” movement and Sophie Scholl, who was a German student and political activist who protested the Nazi regime in Germany during WWII. She was convicted of high treason after having been found distributing anti-war leaflets at the University of Munich with her brother, Hans. Shatira, inspired by these activists, decides to non-violently protest Ms. Karen’s dismissal. Do you think what she did was the right thing to do? Have you ever done something like that to protest actions that you felt were unjust? Do you feel that rallies and non-violent protests are effective?

When Shatira says that she feels pressure to be “flirty thirty and thriving” and that it seems like something that is only seen in the movies and not realistic. She also says she is more afraid of the future than she is of death. Do you think she is realistic or pessimistic? Do you feel the same way? Why or why not?

Shatira is finding her voice through her photography. She is exploring ways to capture moments that help her express her thoughts. What are some creative ways that you make your voice heard and express yourself?

How do you feel about having armed security guards and metal detectors in school or on campus? Do you feel like there are other ways that would help prevent gun violence in schools?

Shatira says she doesn’t want to “sit back anymore.” Do you feel like this is a time for you to get more involved and to not let things “be”? What is it you want to change? Will you vote in this year’s elections? What issues do you think voting can help change?

