Discussion Questions for *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012)

103 minutes (1 hour, 43 minutes), PG-13 Rating

Summary: Charlie is an unpopular high school freshman, a “wallflower,” who is befriended by two seniors, Patrick and Sam (Emma Watson). The movie is about their friendship and Charlie’s personal struggles with the recent suicide of his friend and his own mental illness. Throughout the film, Charlie has flashbacks of his aunt, who died in a car accident when he was 7. It’s eventually revealed that Charlie’s aunt molested him; a sexual encounter with Sam triggers Charlie’s repressed memories. Charlie has a mental breakdown.

1. Which character, if any, do you relate to? Why?

2. Did Sam, Patrick, and their group of friends pity Charlie? Explain your answer.

3. What were some of the symptoms of Charlie’s mental illness? What symptoms have you experienced?
4. What was the main message of the film?

5. Charlie’s doctor said, “We can’t choose where we come from, but we can choose where we go from there.” You didn’t choose to have an addiction or mental illness; what choices do you need to make for your recovery?