

CRITICAL THINKING

KYLER ERICKSON

Use the following critical thinking questions to help foster an open, student-led discussion on the theme(s) discussed in this episode of The Harbor.

1. **"OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, THERE HAVE BEEN OVER 85 SCHOOL SHOOTINGS." WHILE THESE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED INCIDENTS, THE TRAUMA FROM TRAGEDIES LIKE THESE CAN BE FELT NATIONWIDE.**

How can we help one another through traumatic experiences at the micro-level (i.e. person to person, classroom to classroom, or school to school)? How can we help as a community?

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2. **AS WE ALL KNOW, TRAGEDY IS NOT JUST LIMITED TO VIOLENCE. TRAUMATIC EVENTS CAN INVOLVE PAIN, FEAR, ANXIETY, DEPRESSION, ABANDONMENT, THE END OF A RELATIONSHIP, DIVORCE, THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE, OR EVEN A NATURAL DISASTER.**

Have you, your friends, your family, or your community been directly affected by a traumatic event? If so, how did you and those around you cope with the experience?

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3. **RECALL HOW KYLER INITIALLY REACTED TO THE SHOOTING THAT OCCURRED AT HIS SCHOOL - HOW HE KEPT HIS FEELINGS TO HIMSELF AND REFUSED TO "ADMIT THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG" WITH HIM.**

Unfortunately, many victims of traumatic experiences internalize their feelings and have a difficult time seeking help. Why do you think this is? Use Kyler as an example.

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4. **MANY OF US HAVE KNOWN SOMEONE WHO NEEDED HELP THROUGH A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE, BUT REFUSED HELP OR RETALIATED AGAINST ANYONE THAT TRIED TO OFFER HELP.**

How do we help those people who won't help themselves? What can we do to better understand their situation?

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