“Slingshot Hip Hop”

Questions about the Film

1. When the rapper from DAM takes you into his room, what is similar to a typical bedroom in the U.S., and what is different?

2. What do you think he means when he says that DAM’s music is 30% hip hop, 30% literature, and 40% Palestinian life?

3. What are some aspects of Palestinian life that are different from life in the U.S.?

4. What is the difference between ‘48 Palestinians and ‘67 Palestinians? What do the numbers mean, and how is the living situation and location of the two groups different?

5. Why were the rappers influenced by a music video by Tupac?

6. What happened in 2000? Why did the event(s) make the singers of DAM feel separated from many other Palestinians?

7. What did they mean by the song “Who’s a Terrorist”?

8. How did DAM’s music change? (Consider the language they use and the topics they cover.)

9. Why do the children in the camp have a key on their shirt? What does the key symbolize in Palestinian culture? (Hint: The camp is called “Camp Return.”)

10. What does the group dream of doing if they get famous and make money?

11. The film then follows Mohammed, a rap artist in Gaza. What is his big complaint about life in Gaza?

12. Why does it sometimes take 7-8 hours to travel a distance of 15 miles? (Why do Palestinians say Gaza is “a big prison”?)

13. What does Mohammed mean when he says “Rap gives us oxygen.”?

14. When DAM visits a West Bank refugee camp, what do the refugee boys ask them?

15. How does the rapper from DAM feel in the refugee camp?
16. What happened to the teenage rappers from the refugee camp a few months after they performed the rap that they wrote about their friend?

17. What does the wall represent to them?

18. How do the rappers’ parents feel about their children’s work?

19. Why is the Arab rapper who lives in Israel reluctant to take a bus?

20. What happens when someone speaks Arabic on a street in Israel?

21. Why did Abeer (one of the girls) choose not to perform?

22. Why did Abeer sue McDonald’s, and what does this tell you about her personality?

23. What kinds of activities does DAM do with children to try to make a difference?

24. What does the rapper from Gaza mean when he says, “I wish I could visit the West Bank and ’48.”? What stops him from making those very short trips?

25. What happened when PR (the rap group) took the stage in Gaza?

26. Why were the Palestinian rappers from Israel worried about what the people in Gaza would think of them?

27. What is life like in the Nimsawi refugee camp in Gaza?

28. Why is Abeer particularly excited to travel to the West Bank?

29. Why were the rappers excited to go to a big performance in Ramallah (West Bank)?

30. What happened to PR when they tried to participate in that performance in the West Bank?