

BLIND SPOT

by Meghan Gardiner



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BLIND SPOT- COMPANY LIST

Green Thumb Theatre presents "**Blind Spot**" written by Meghan Gardiner.

Production Credits

"Tyler"	Devin Estes
"Carrie"	Meghan Kinsley
"Damien"	Ashley Liu
Playwright	Meghan Gardiner
Lighting Designer	Ian Giles
Sound Designer	Corbie Fieldwalker
Set & Props Designer	Karyn McCallum
Director	Patrick McDonald
Stage Manager	Leigh McClymont
Costume Designer	Naomi Sider

Green Thumb Theatre is a member of the Professional Association of Canadian Theatres and engages, under the terms of the Canadian Theatre Agreement, professional Artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Office Staff

Tour Manager	Nadine Carew
Production Manager	Alex Currie
Administrative Assistant	Samantha Currie
General Manager	Ivan Habel
Bookkeeper	Jessie Li
Artistic Director	Patrick McDonald
Fundraising Manager	Andy Price
Communications Manager	Ritu Sidhu



This study guide was written by **Sunita Singh Pierce**. Sunita has been working in theatre and with children for the past 16 years. She has a BFA in Theatre and a BEd, minor in Curriculum Instruction, both from Simon Fraser University.

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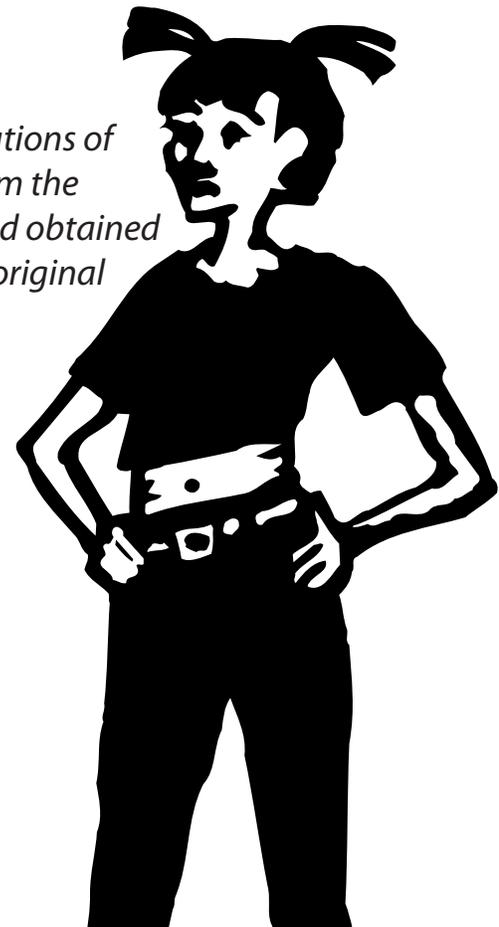
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Note: Many of the exercises in this guide are not original creations of the author. The author of the guide is not attempting to claim the exercises as her own invention. They have been acquired and obtained from other learning materials. Where no credit is given, the original source is unknown.

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BLIND SPOT- BC CURRICULUM, SYNOPSIS & CHARACTERS

Blind Spot and the BC Curriculum

This Study Guide has been designed to help you decide how to prepare your students to see and understand the play. Included in this booklet are suggestions on how to work the performance into your curriculum and ideas on how to promote classroom discussion about healthy sexual decision making, social responsibility, consent, and coming of age.

Synopsis

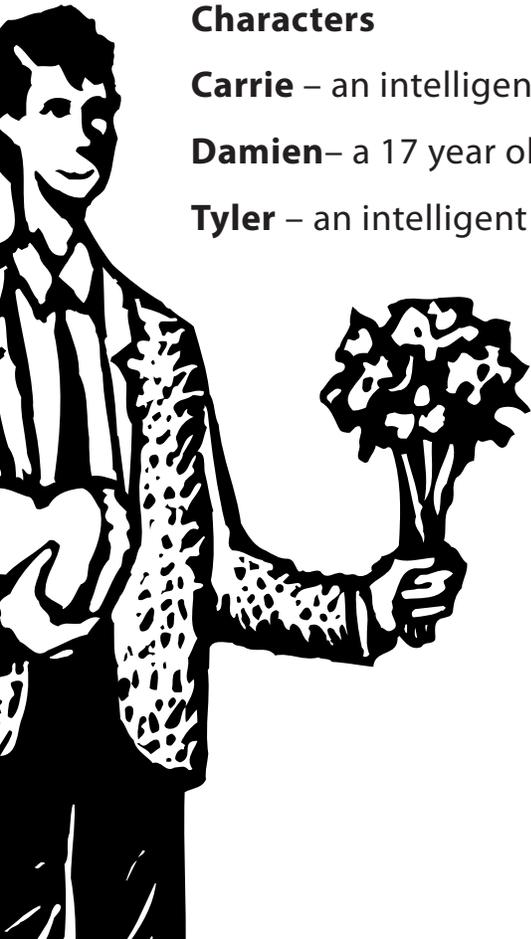
Carrie and Tyler, bright young friends who have grown up together, are now being forced to face the facts that their friendship is changing. Tyler has developed a crush on Carrie and finds out one night at a party that Carrie has her eye on his cousin, Damien. As the evening goes on, Tyler reveals his feelings to both his cousin and Carrie. The aftermath of his admission leads to dire results as miscommunication and deception leads to actions which change everyone's life.

Characters

Carrie – an intelligent 15 year old teenager

Damien– a 17 year old teenage jock

Tyler – an intelligent 16 year old teenager



BLIND SPOT- SHOW ETIQUETTE & TIPS

Getting Your Students Ready for the Play

When young people attend a live theatrical performance for the first time they often do not realize how different it is from watching a movie or television show. Live presentations can be more challenging for performers, because unforeseen circumstances can arise and affect their performance. Mistakes cannot be edited out! This makes for a more dynamic experience for both performers and audience members.

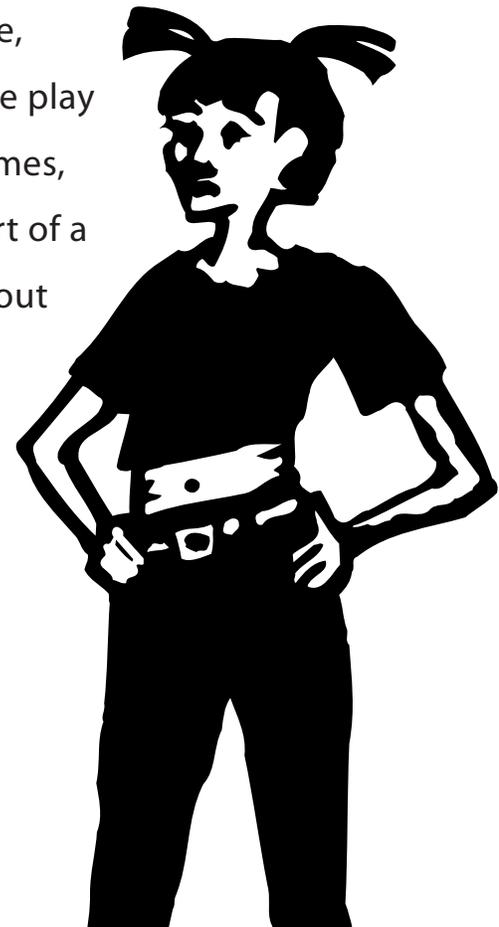
Pre-Performance

It is important that you **please remind your students** that:

- It is rude and disruptive to talk, eat and drink during the play.
- Photos and recordings are not allowed.
- Excessive movement can be distracting to others watching the play.

Active Viewing

To make the most out of watching this live performance, **please encourage your students to** not only watch the play for the story, but to also pay attention to the set, costumes, music and lighting. These aspects are an important part of a live performance and will enhance later discussions about the play and the students' experience watching it.



BLIND SPOT- SHOW ETIQUETTE & TIPS

Post Performance

Now that your students have seen the play it's time to further enrich their experience.

The following quick facts and group discussions have been provided as suggestions and starting points for further exploration into the themes brought up in Blind Spot. Keep in mind that the Activate Group Discussions are not limited to any age or grade group.

Near the end of this guide you will find extra resources and a healthy relationship wheel to support the issues that have been discussed.



BLIND SPOT- QUICK FACTS

Quick Facts

An astounding number of men and boys seem to think that drugs and alcohol are an acceptable way of “loosening up” women, and that if a female is intoxicated she becomes “fair game.” This production looks at the pressure that teens face to become sexually active. It asks both girls and boys to examine the responsibilities that they have to each other’s well being, and to think more deeply about the consequences of their actions.

What is Sexual Assault?

Any type of sexual activity involving a person who has not soberly and explicitly agreed to participate in, is considered sexual assault.

What does “consent” mean?

To give “consent” means giving your full and explicit agreement/approval on an activity, opinion or sentiment. In effect, when you give consent, you are voluntarily agreeing with someone/something on a particular matter. There are no grey areas, no partial consent – either someone fully & clearly consents or they do not.

What is “date rape”?

When someone is forced to have sex without their consent during a voluntary social activity. A majority of young women raped (68 percent) knew their rapist because they were either their boyfriend, friend or casual acquaintance.



BLIND SPOT- QUICK FACTS

Quick Facts

What can be used as a “Date Rape Drug”?

The following are “drugs” that have been used to facilitate sexual assault:

- GHB (gamma hydrobutyric acid) - “love drug” – can be a colourless & odourless liquid, or white powder or pill.
- Rohypnol (flunitrazepam) - a.k.a “roofies” or “ropes” – a pill which dissolves colourlessly and odourlessly in liquid; however, some of the new pills turn liquids blue.
- Ketamine (ketamine hydrochloride) – a white powder.
- Alcohol – comes in a liquid form, and is readily available.

Some Affects

- It’s harder to think clearly and evaluate a potentially dangerous situation.
- It’s harder to resist sexual or physical assault.
- Drinking too much alcohol can also cause black-outs and memory loss.

How can I protect myself from being a victim?

- Don’t accept any types of drinks from other people.
- Open bottles/containers yourself.
- Keep your drink with you at all times, even when you go to the bathroom.
- Don’t share drinks.
- Don’t drink from punch bowls or other common open containers. They may already have drugs in them.
- Don’t drink anything that tastes or smells strange. Sometimes, GHB tastes salty.



BLIND SPOT- QUICK FACTS

Quick Facts

If you think that you have been drugged and raped:

- Go to the police station or hospital right away.
- Get a urine test as soon as possible. The drugs leave your system quickly.
- Don't urinate before getting help so that a proper drug test to be conducted.
- Don't douche, bathe, or change clothes before getting help. These things may give evidence of the rape.
- Talk to someone you trust for support
- You also can call a crisis center or a hotline to talk with a counselor.



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

Please use the following topics to encourage discussion and investigation into the issues explored in Blind Spot.

Suggestion: Divide your class into groups to discuss each topic within a certain time limit (one topic at a time or a different topic per group), with one student designated as scribe and another as reporter. You will need to photocopy the topics for each group.

When the time is up, the reporter from each group “reports” their group’s discussion back to the class as a whole. The teacher acts as facilitator, for example - pointing out commonalities and discrepancies in the class findings and encouraging more discussion or debate.

* it may be interesting to create groups by separating boys and girls and see how/if discussions differ.

* if you are giving one topic per group, you may want to save #4 to discuss as an entire class at the end of the reporting period.



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION 1

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

1. Looking "Cool" – appearances are not always what they seem!

Carrie is concerned about how her and Tyler appear to others at the party. She wants to fit in at all costs.

Tyler:why are you even contemplating booze tonight?

Carrie: Okay, here's the thing : We are in grade ten. Rebecca is in grade eleven, which means there will be grade twelves at the party.

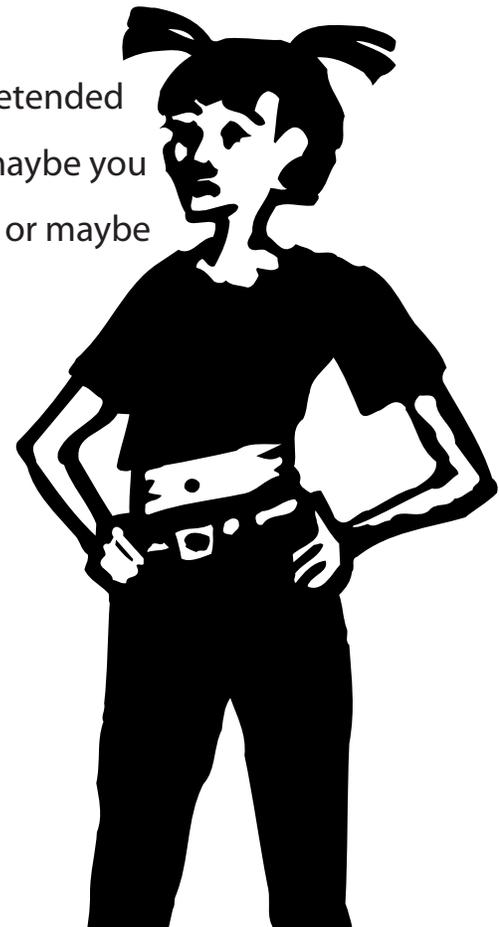
Tyler: And?

Carrie: And that means we need to appear mature.

Tyler: By drinking.

It is human nature to want to belong, to be accepted by your peers. Unfortunately, we sometimes compromise our own beliefs in the hope that it makes us seem more acceptable or even desirable.

- Have you ever been in a situation where you've pretended to be a certain way in order to fit in? For example, maybe you have pretended to be less smart than you really are or maybe meaner than you really are...
- Did it work? How did it make you feel?
- If you could go back in time, would you have changed your behaviour? Why or why not?



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION 1CONT'D

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

1. Looking "cool" – appearances are not always what they seem!

Sometimes, it's important in friendships and relationships for there to be some give and take. However, this doesn't mean that you should ignore your own feelings and behave a certain way because you think it is required of you. Trust and listen to yourself!

- Can you think of a time when you changed your thoughts and opinions about something in order to get along with someone else?
- Was this a positive or negative way of getting along with someone?



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION 2

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

2. *Under Pressure: listening to that “little voice”*

Stage Directions: Damien gets a little too close. They kiss for a few seconds, then Carrie pulls away and stands.

Carrie: Whoa, hey okay...this isn't what I ...You know, why don't we go back downstairs and dance...

Damien: I don't dance.

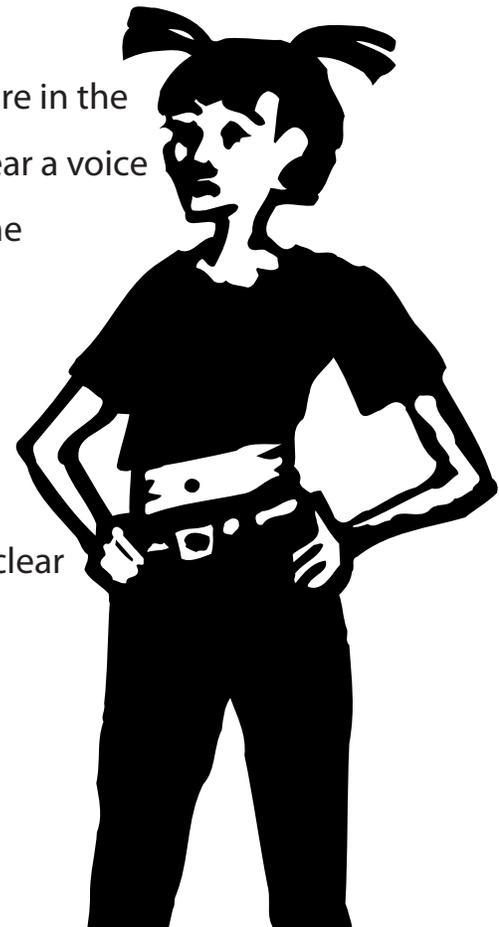
Carrie: ... or get some fresh air.

Damien: Why don't we hang out here for a bit...

- What do you think is going on here?
- How do you think Carrie is feeling? What does she really want?
- What about Damien – what does he really want?
- Are they listening to each other?

Have you ever had that feeling - just before or while you are in the middle of doing something – the one where you could hear a voice inside your head that is trying to tell you something? Some people also refer to this as their “gut” speaking.

If you've experienced this, it usually means that you are uncomfortable with something. When this happens, it's important to stop and listen to yourself and take a good, clear look at the situation that you are in and start from there.



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION 3

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

3. *Shades of Grey or Black & White?*

Tyler: ...are you hearing me? I mean, am I making sense?

Carrie: Yes.

Tyler: Good. So...maybe...Are we cool?

Carrie: No.

Life is not simple. We encounter complexities all of the time. At the beginning of *Blind Spot*, Carrie and Tyler are friends. They care about each other and although Tyler never intended to hurt Carrie, their relationship goes terribly wrong.

How did it go wrong? Is anyone to blame? Where is Damien in all of this?

- In your opinion, what happened to Carrie? Why?
- Is Tyler a good friend or a bad friend? Or...?
- Was Damien trying to help out Tyler?
- Is Damien more guilty than Tyler of assaulting Carrie? Is Tyler guilty? Are they both guilty?



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION 4

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

4. Consent: Yes or No?

Tyler: Carrie...I would never do that to you.

Carrie: But you did, Tyler. You did.

Tyler: But you wanted me to!

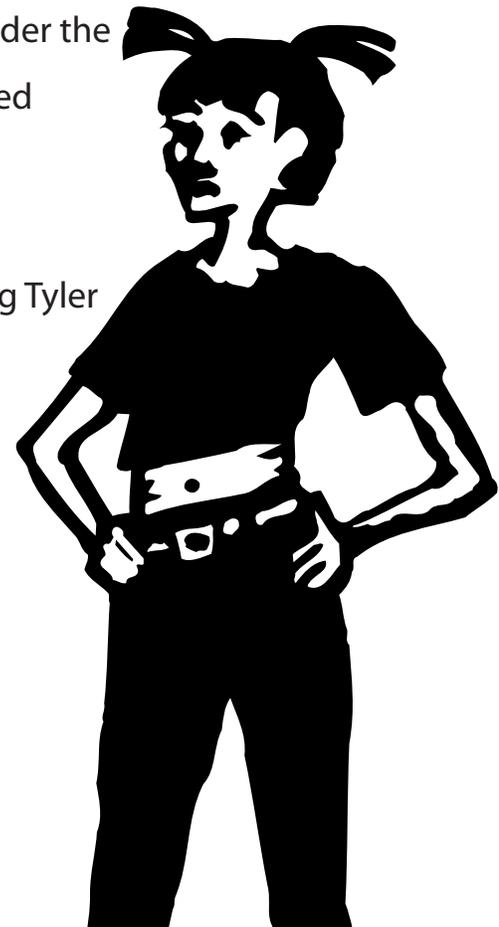
Carrie: Excuse me?

Tyler: You were happy to see me...you said you needed me, that you needed me there...

Carrie: Really, and what else did I say?...I doubt that I said "I want to have sex with you Tyler."

In Blind Spot, Carrie was under the influence of a date rape drug when she and Tyler had sex. When someone is using a mind altering substance (drugs, alcohol, medication etc...) they may make choices that are not necessarily the ones they would make when sober. This is why when someone is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, they are no longer considered capable of making choices for themselves.

Carrie was not sober and therefore was incapable of giving Tyler her consent to have sex. This puts Tyler in an extremely complex and difficult situation.



BLIND SPOT- ACTIVATE GROUP DISCUSSION

Topics for Activating Group Discussion

4. *Consent: Yes or No?*

- Do you feel that Carrie is justified in feeling betrayed?
- How do you think the average girl would react in her situation?
- Were there warning signs that Carrie was under the influence that Tyler missed?
- If there were, why do you think he may have missed them?
- Finally, how could this evening have gone differently? What choices could both Carrie and Tyler have made that would have resulted in them still being friends?



BLIND SPOT- CHOOSING A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP

Choosing a Healthy Relationship

What do you look for in a healthy relationship? Of course, there are the things that first attract you to someone - like their looks, their sense of humour, their values etc... but how do you know that this is a healthy relationship?

Try asking yourself these questions:

1. Do I feel safe with this person?

That is, you don't feel like they would harm you physically, emotionally, or mentally. It's a sure sign that something isn't right if you feel afraid around this person.

2. Are we honest with each other?

For example, do you feel like you have to hide things from your partner or that your partner is hiding something from you. You need to feel that you can discuss things with each other openly, no matter how hard it may seem.

3. Does this person accept me the way I am? Do I like them exactly as they are?

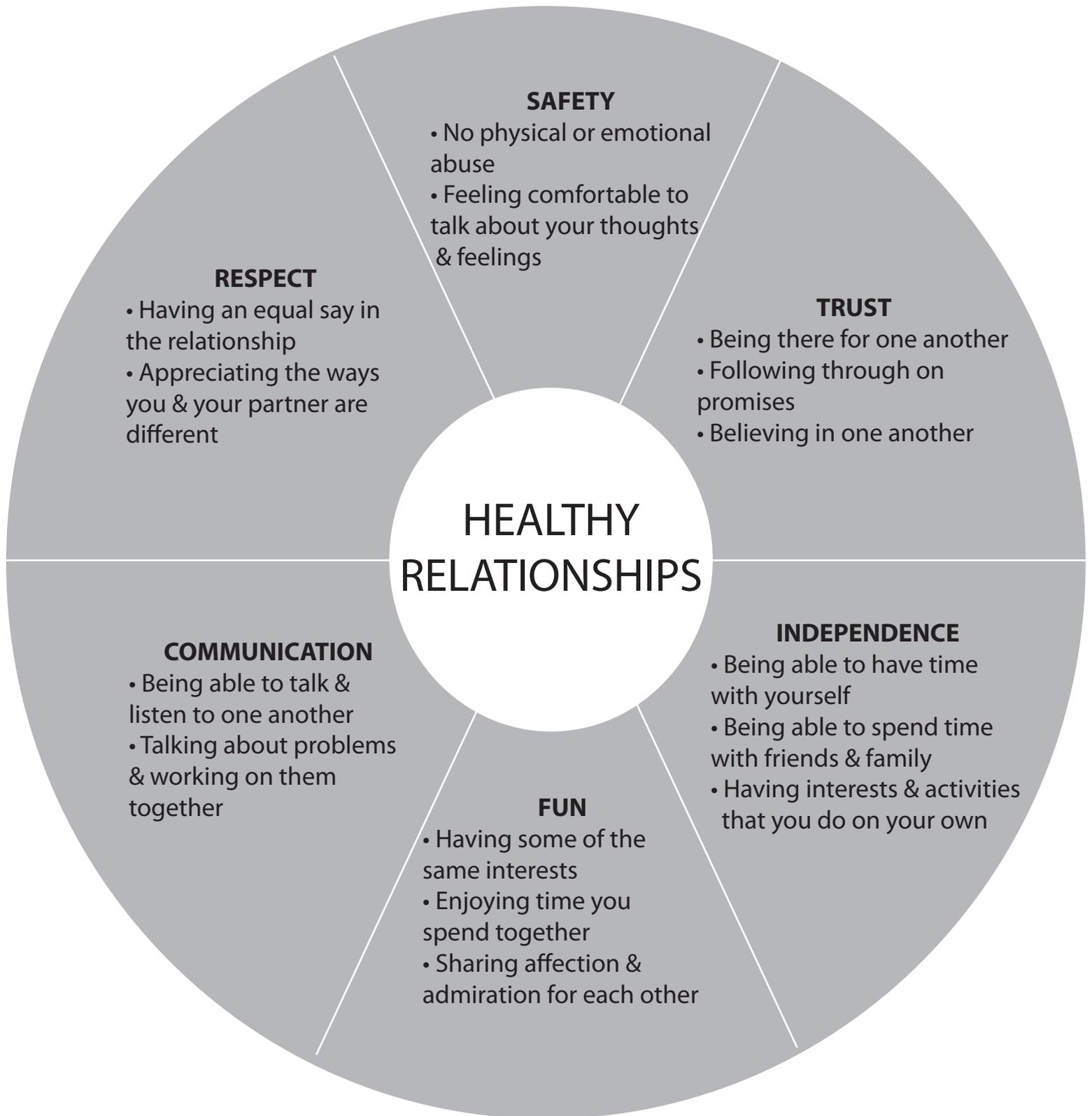
It's hard to change someone or 'fix' them. You need to like and respect them the way they are and they should feel the same way about you.

4. Do I enjoy being with this person?

No-one wants to be around someone who doesn't make them feel good. Of course, there are highs and lows in relationships - but when it comes down to it, does this person make you happy?



BLIND SPOT- HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WHEEL



Healthy Relationships Wheel

Bannister, Elizabeth Dr. *Understanding Healthy Dating Relationships*. Victoria: University of Victoria, 2005

BLIND SPOT- SAFE DATING TIPS

Safe Dating Tips

- Make the first few dates take place in public or with friends of yours.
- Tell someone where you are going and let that person know when you are back home.
- Trust your "little voice": – if it tells you that something's wrong, listen to it.
- If you feel uncomfortable, be polite but firm and ... LEAVE!!
- Always have a back up plan in case things don't go well and you need to leave – make sure you have cash on you (e.g. for a taxi), just in case.
- Know the address of where you are in case you need to be picked up.
- Be prepared to pay for your half of the date, that way you can avoid the possibility of being made to feel that you "owe" the person back.



BLIND SPOT- EXTRA RESOURCES

Extra Resources

Here is a list of some resources you may want to explore to learn more about date rape, how to get help for yourself or others and how to choose healthy relationships.

Websites

CANADA

The Canadian Women's Directory of Resources and Information <http://www.womennet.ca/new/>

Women Against Violence Against Women <http://www.wavaw.ca/>

Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres <http://www.casac.ca/>

The White Ribbon Campaign <http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>

Aboriginal Youth Network <http://www.ayn.ca/health/abusedaterape.aspx>

Sexuality and U – for teens <http://www.sexualityandu.ca/teens/what-7.aspx>

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre – Patient Care for Sexual Assault
[http://www.bcwomens.ca/HealthTopics/SexualHealth/SexualAssault/PatientCare.](http://www.bcwomens.ca/HealthTopics/SexualHealth/SexualAssault/PatientCare.htm)

htm

Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter <http://www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca/>

Project GHB – Date Rape drug [http://www.projectghb.org/rape/whatisrape.](http://www.projectghb.org/rape/whatisrape.htm)

htm

USA

National Women's Health Information Center <http://www.4woman.gov/faq/rohypnol.htm>

National Criminal Justice Reference Service Center
http://www.ncjrs.org/club_drugs/summary.html

National Institute on Drug Abuse <http://www.nida.nih.gov/Infofacts/clubdrugs.html>

Sexual Assault Crisis Centers USA <http://www.stormloader.com/404.html>



BLIND SPOT- EXTRA RESOURCES

Extra Resources

Websites

USA Cond't

Information on Male Rape <http://www.rapecrisiscenter.com/>

INTERNATIONAL

International Rape Crisis Centers <http://www.alltheseyears.net/>

RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) <http://www.rainn.org/>

Books

FICTION

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson

Past Forgiving by Gloria D. Miklowitz

NON_FICTION

Invisible Girls: The Truth About Sexual Abuse – A Book for Teen Girls, Young Women and Everyone Who Cares About Them by Patti Feuereisen

Date Violence by Elaine Landau

In Love and In Danger: A Teen's Guide to Breaking Free of Abusive Relationships by Barry Levy

Teen Life Set 2 : Frequently Asked Questions About Date Rape by Tamara Orr

It Happened to Nancy: By an Anonymous Teenager, A True Story from Her Diary, Edited by Beatrice Sparks

I Never Called It Rape: The Ms. Report on Recognizing, Fighting and Surviving Date And Acquaintance Rape by Robin Warshaw



GREEN THUMB THANKS YOU

Thank you for taking the time to use/review the Blind Spot Study Guide as a resource to further enrich your students' experience watching the play and understanding the topics.



We want to hear from you and your students!

Visit our website at **greenthumb.bc.ca** and tell us what you thought about the play, your experience and future play ideas- we welcome letter's as well. You can also add our link to your classroom website to explore the site as an activity.

Good luck in the school year and we hope to see you next year!

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