**Discussion Questions**

1. What inspires Trevor to begin the pay it forward challenge?
2. One of the first people he helps is Jerry, who is struggling with addiction. Does Trevor make a difference in Jerry’s life?
3. How does Mr. Simonet’s kindness change Arlene?
4. What happened to Mr. Simonet’s face? How does this make him sympathize with Trevor?
5. If you were in Mr. Simonet’s classroom, what would you have done for the assignment?
6. Does Trevor’s pay it forward experiment work?
7. How does a journalist hear about Trevor’s story?
8. Trevor later wonders if he is being naive about his project and the goodness of people. Do you think Trevor is naive, innocent, good-natured, or all?
9. Is kindness worth pursuing? What is Trevor’s ultimate decision and thoughts?
10. In the end, Trevor is determined to show courage and help a stranger. How does he keep his integrity and character?
11. Is it possible to change the world?
12. Can kindness change the world?
The Characters

Describe each of the main characters in *Pay It Forward*. What is their biggest struggle? What do they want most?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>What he struggles with</th>
<th>What he wants most</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trevor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Simonet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlene</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jerry</td>
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### Paying It Forward

Analyze some of the positives and negatives of each “pay it forward.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giving the reporter a Jaguar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shooting a hospital because of a girl’s asthma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inviting a homeless stranger into your house</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helping a criminal flee police</td>
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<tr>
<td>Setting up Arlene and Mr. Simonet</td>
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WRITING PROMPTS

1. If you were starting the pay it forward challenge, what are 3 specific actions (or people you could help) to begin?
2. How is forgiveness a theme in the movie?
3. Write the hospital shoot-out scene from the perspective of the young girl with asthma.
4. Pretend you were the reporter on the receiving end of the Jaguar. How would you begin finding who started this “pay it forward” idea?
5. Why does Mr. Simonet begin to fall for Arlene?
6. Does kindness have to make an impact to matter?
7. Why does Trevor want Mr. Simonet to date his mother?
8. Are illegal acts justifiable pay-it-forward acts?
9. What examples of kindness have you seen in real life or on the news, if any?
10. Is kindness random actions, or a lifestyle? Can it be both?
11. What did you learn from the movie?
12. Does the movie’s ending have a positive or negative ending? Support your answer.
13. Write an alternative ending.