

# HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 2

## Family Discussion Guide

Now that Drac has opened the Hotel Transylvania's doors to humans, things are changing for the better; however, Drac is secretly worried that his half-human grandson, Dennis, isn't showing his vampire side. So, while Mavis and Johnny are away, Drac enlists his friends to help him put the boy through a "monster-in-training" boot camp. But things really get batty when Drac's cantankerous, old-school dad pays an unexpected visit.

The following are a selection of conversation starters and discussion questions around some of the more prevalent themes in the film.



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## There's Always Room for Love

Drac sings a love song for Mavis and Johnny at their wedding celebration. It concludes with the line, "Love is making room for all the best in you." Although he struggles at times, Drac puts this into practice with

Johnny, even though his human son-in-law frequently gets on his nerves. Ultimately, Drac sees his good side and, more importantly, knows that Mavis loves him deeply.

Consistently being a good, loving friend or family member is tough work. People, even the ones we love the most, can get on our nerves. It's easy to let those frustrations rise to the top and consume our attention. If we look hard enough, we can always find something good to celebrate in everyone we meet. Love is shoving those frustrations aside in our minds and making room for—focusing on—the best in others. The more we do, the stronger our relationships and friendships will be.

## Questions for Consideration

1. Think about friends and family members. When is it difficult to love them and why?
2. Have you ever been difficult to love? How did people around you react?



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## You Are Not the Center of the Universe

Drac really wants Dennis to be a vampire. He's willing to do anything to see those fangs develop, even if it puts Dennis at great risk. Mavis and Johnny take a more natural, laid-back approach. In terms of Dennis' development, what will be, will be. When the situation comes to a head, and Drac puts Dennis' life in danger, Mavis rushes home and confronts her father. She shouts at him, "You can't make someone be something they're not!"

Let's face it, life would be so much easier if everyone acted like we wanted them to or did what we told them. It would also get boring, fast. It helps to remind ourselves on a daily basis: we are not the center of the universe. When we forget this one simple fact, even the smallest of offenses can cause us to erupt in anger. When people don't live up to our expectations—through no fault of their own—we freak out. If we take a moment and put other people before ourselves—making other people the center of our universe—then maybe we can learn something not only about them and the world around us, but ourselves too.

## Questions for Consideration

1. When have you felt pressured to be something you're not? Who made you feel that way and how? Did you stay true to who you are or did you give in?
2. Are there times when you're tempted to make someone be something they're not? If so, why? How do you resist this urge?



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## Celebrate Diversity

Hotel Transylvania is such a fun place because of the wild and crazy cast of characters that work and stay there. It might seem like we're not surrounded by weird-looking monsters, but think about our planet and you'll realize that we are. From the fish in the sea to the birds in the air to the animals on the ground, we are surrounded by some freaky creatures. And we haven't even started talking about your crazy uncle.

Drac loves being a vampire and adores his vampire daughter. He tolerates his human son-in-law but parties it up with different monsters: blobs, werewolves, mummies, and the list goes on and on. Whether or not he admits and fully appreciates it, Drac is surrounded by diversity. But when it comes to Dennis, all bets are off. He wants his grandson to be just like him. He thinks being a vampire is the best way to live. Who would want to be a boring human? Such a mindset ignores the gifts that humans (and other monsters!) can bring to the party. As you live your life, try to be more like Johnny, who views it as one big party where everyone is welcome!



## Questions for Consideration

1. Where do you see diversity in your community?
2. How can you further develop and celebrate more diversity around you?

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## Being a Parent Can Be Scary

Often, animated films aren't just for kids. They frequently have important reminders and lessons for parents too. Hotel Transylvania 2 is no different. As we've already mentioned, Drac is impatient for Dennis to get his fangs. Mavis and Johnny are more patient. But there's one other set of parents to consider, Johnny's mom and dad. While they love and accept Mavis, they do so more out of their own preconceived ideas about who she is and how she should behave than a true understanding of who she is.

Parenting is a tough job...maybe the toughest. The hours are long and the pay stinks. Parents know a lot, but they don't know everything. When faced with new and/or difficult situations, parents often react the best ways that they know how...hopefully out of love. But sometimes, difficulties, the business of life, or complex situations get in the way, and parents can't initially see the best way forward. They might react poorly out of impatience or anger or simply because they don't know any other way. In these times when it's hardest to practice, patience is needed more than ever so that parents can listen to and better understand their kids. Doing so can not only create stronger relationships, but can also boost kid's self-esteem. Either way, the next time your parents react too quickly, be patient with them too.

## Questions for Consideration

1. For parents, think about the times when you were confident in choices you made for your children. What made you feel confident? Now think about times that were less certain. How did you move through those difficult situations?
2. For kids, when have you lost patience with your parents? Were you able to reconcile with them and learn from the experience? If so, how?



## Fear is Soooooo 1960s!

The monsters in *Hotel Transylvania 2*—vampires, Frankenstein, werewolves, and mummies—have a long history in the movies. In the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, they thrilled and terrified moviegoers, and filmmakers have used them in horror films every decade since. Now, when we see them in films and television series, they're often more complex, less scary characters. Writers employ them to make us think about ourselves in greater detail and to analyze how we treat people who are different from us.

There's an old saying: time heals all wounds. But if movies like *Hotel Transylvania 2* are any indication, it seems like the passing of time also makes things we once thought were scary less frightening. We were all scared of the dark once, but as we grew up, night lights became less of a necessity. Most teenagers don't check under their beds for monsters before going to sleep. So think about the things that scare you now and remember that, in a few years, they're probably going to make you laugh.

### Questions for Consideration

1. What were you afraid of when you were younger?  
When did you stop being afraid of it?
2. What are you afraid of now? Why? How might you overcome this fear?

