



Cinema & Spirituality: Big Fish

1. What did you like or not like about the film?
2. Will says in the telling of the story of his father's life it is impossible to separate fact from fiction. How are fact and fiction different? How are they related?
3. If you could find out how and when you were going to die, would you? Why or why not?
4. In the film, the Big Fish represents different things to different people. What do you think is important about the idea of the fish if anything?
5. Will struggles with his father's stories because they are "not true." Why do you think it is important for Will to hear the "true stories?" Why are the "embellished" stories important?
6. In our culture there is a debate about whether or not the Bible is true. What do you think? Is it true in the way Will sees truth or the way Edward does? How does your view of the Bible inform your thoughts about faith and God?
7. As Edward dies, Will tells the story of them going to the river. Going to the river is often used as an image for baptism or entering the promised land. How do you see those images represented in the film if at all?
8. How do you see how Edward's sickness and death affected his relationships with his family. How have you seen this happen in your life, if at all?
9. One of the last scenes of the film is of Edward's funeral. Is the portrayal similar or different from funerals you have experienced? How?
10. At the end of the film Will says that his father told stories so many times that he became the story. How is this similar or dis-similar to the stories we tell about ourselves or the stories that we tell in faith communities?



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