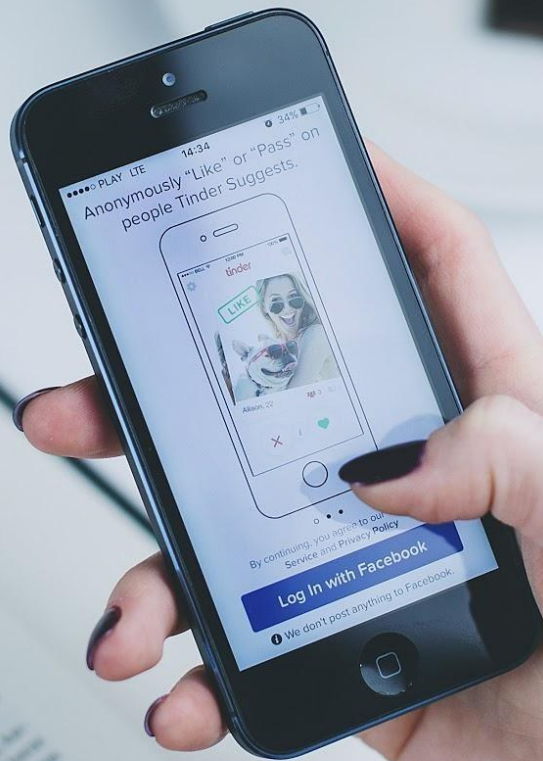


Black Mirror - "Nosedive"

Worksheets

Mr. AL-Zubaidi

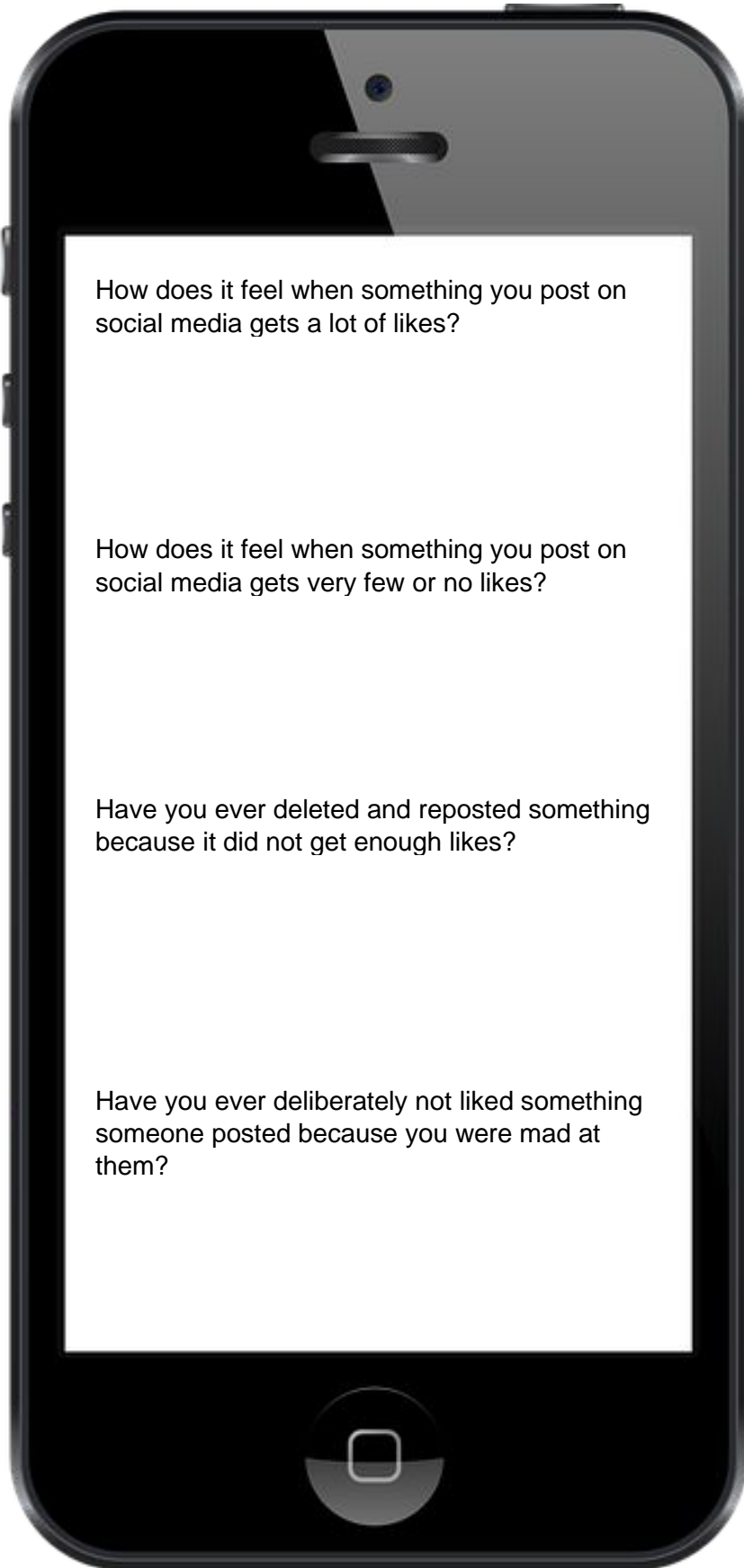


Before you start

“Nosedive” is an episode of the TV series *Black Mirror*. It is available on Netflix.

Please view the episode before you decide to show it to your class. It contains strong language and may not be appropriate for your teaching situation. Only you can decide whether it is appropriate to show to your class. I would not recommend it for any earlier than 9th grade even in a liberal school district.

"Nosedive" Pre-Viewing



How long do you think you could make it without social media?

Have you ever considered deleting or deactivating some or all of your social media accounts?

Underline any words that describe how you feel using social media. Circle **one** word that most describes how you feel.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Happy | Friendly | Mad |
| Popular | Tired | Stressed |
| Relaxed | Jealous | Petty |
| Angry | Bored | Nothing |
| Overwhelmed | Unpopular | Fake |
| Authentic | Listened to | Ignored |

Explain why you circled the word you did.

"Nosedive" Viewing Questions

1. What is social media mainly used for in the world of the show?
 - a. Ranking people and content on a scale of 1 to 5
 - b. Sending messages and ordering food
 - c. Finding new apartments and careers
 - d. Liking and disliking content

2. Why is Lacie so nice to everyone she meets?
 - a. She is honestly happy most of the time
 - b. She is trying to get a promotion at work
 - c. She is trying to raise her social media score
 - d. She doesn't have very many friends and wants new friends

3. Why does Lacie get anonymous low votes at work?
 - a. She doesn't like the free coffee a coworker gives her
 - b. She gives 5 stars to someone her coworkers are mad at
 - c. They don't think she is genuine in the elevator
 - d. She is thinking about quitting and they don't want her to go

4. How does Lacie know Naomi?
 - a. She found her on social media because they had similar interests
 - b. They were college roommates
 - c. They were best friends when they were children
 - d. They used to work together at the mall

5. What happens to Lacie at the airport?
 - a. She is not allowed to fly because she is on a "no fly" list
 - b. Naomi calls her and asks her to get a car instead
 - c. She misses her flight because her brother made her late
 - d. She becomes disruptive after her flight is cancelled so security dings her a full point

6. What story does the truck driver share with Lacie?
 - a. She tells the story of how her husband died of cancer and social media could not help
 - b. She tells Lacie about how she first became a truck driver to get more 5 star ratings
 - c. She tells Lacie about her best friend's speech at her own wedding
 - d. She tells the story of the time she got in a car crash

7. Why doesn't Naomi want Lacie at her wedding anymore?
 - a. Naomi doesn't want to hear the speech about the eating disorder
 - b. Naomi finds out that Lacie had an affair with Greg
 - c. Naomi doesn't want a person with such a low score at her wedding
 - d. Naomi decides her best friend Kim is a better fit for the ceremony

8. Which of the following is the best explanation for why Lacie and her blockmate cuss each other out?
 - a. They know each other from high school and did not get along
 - b. It is his fault that she got arrested at the wedding
 - c. They have both lived so long being "fake nice" that they are relieved to finally express negative emotions
 - d. Lacie doesn't like anyone and is always yelling

9. Explain why the episode might be called "Nosedive."

10. Personal Connection: How important is it that your social media posts get a lot of likes? Explain.

"Nosedive" Theme

A **theme** is a main idea or message in a story. It can be summed up in a short sentence expressing something about the world. "Family will always be there for you" and "family will betray you when it really comes down to it" are two possible themes for a story about family. Each would occur in very different stories.

Highlight or circle all of the possible themes for "Nosedive." Cross out the themes that do not go with "Nosedive."

- Phones make people happier.
- It's important to express your anger or you will be unhappy.
- Social media makes people less authentic.
- Old cars are more reliable than new cars.
- Weddings are the happiest time in people's lives.
- Nobody is more important than your childhood friends.
- A social media rating does not make you truly happy.
- In a superficial world, it's possible to lose your status very quickly
- The richest people are the happiest people.
- People always want more than they have.

Choose one theme from "Nosedive." Write it here.

Describe three events from the story that show the theme. Explain how each shows the theme.

Event #1

Event #2

Event #3

"Nosedive" & Complex Character

A **complex character** is a character who is complicated like a real person. One way to identify a complex character is to see what matters to them. If you find out that they want multiple things that conflict with each other, they are probably a complex character. For example, you might want to text your friend in class, but you also want to do well on your work and get an A. You cannot do both, so you are caught in a conflict about which one to do.

Fill out this graphic organizer to figure two things that Lacie wants, and how those things make her a complex character

Lacie wants...	...but she also wants...

Explain why Lacie cannot have both of these things. _____

Which thing do you think Lacie wants more? _____

Explain one example from the episode _____

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Fill out this graphic organizer to figure two things that Lacie wants, and how those things make her a complex character.

Lacie wants...	...but she also wants...
1.	1.
2.	2.

Why can't Lacie have both of these things?.

Which thing do you think Lacie wants more? Explain how you know using an example from the episode.

KEYS BEGIN HERE

"Nosedive" Viewing Questions

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9. Explain why the episode might be called "Nosedive."

The answer should make reference to how quickly Naomi's score falls and how she falls into ruin. Accept any answer the student is able to clearly support.

10. Personal Connection: How important is it that your social media posts get a lot of likes? Explain.

Accept any answer that clearly addresses the question. Tell students who say they do not have social media that their answer must be "no," if it is not a part of their life.

"Nosedive" & Complex Character

A **complex character** is a character who is complicated like a real person. One way to identify a complex character is to see what matters to them. If you find out that they want multiple things that conflict with each other, they are probably a complex character. For example, you might want to text your friend in class, but you also want to do well on your work and get an A. You cannot do both, so you are caught in a conflict about which one to do.

Fill out this graphic organizer to figure two things that Lacie wants, and how those things make her a complex character.

Lacie wants...	...but she also wants...
<p>Lacie wants to achieve a high social media ranking. She believes this will make her more popular and happier.</p>	<p>Lacie wants to express her true feelings about the world, including her anger.</p>

Explain why Lacie cannot have both of these things. **In the world of "Nosedive," social media scores are based on every interaction you have. People rate down people who share their true opinions if they are less than nice. Lacie cannot express her true feelings without her social media score going down.**

Which thing do you think Lacie wants more? **Accept any answer that makes logical sense.**

Explain one example from the episode **If they say she wants the social media score more, they should cite how hard she works to raise it. If they say she wants to express herself more, they should cite how the story ends and how she gives up even her freedom to say what she thinks.**