

**> The Pregnancy Project** explores the complex issue of teen pregnancy through the daring story of one teenager from Toppenish, Washington. The Lifetime® Original Movie is based on the true story of Gaby Rodriguez, a brave 17-year-old high school student who helped shine a spotlight on the preconceived notions people have about pregnant teens and on difficulties they encounter as they try to stay in school and face life as a teen parent. For an in-depth special project during her senior year, Gaby decided to fabricate her own pregnancy and carefully document the reactions of those in her community. Through this project, Gaby challenged her school to confront the ways they treated pregnant teens, making national headlines in the process.

In partnership with nonprofit organization The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, the Lifetime Original Movie *The Pregnancy Project* hopes to inspire a national dialogue about teen pregnancy.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How would you describe Gaby Rodriguez? Why do you think she decided to undertake such a daring senior project? What were the risks Gaby took by faking her own pregnancy?
- 2 How did people react once Gaby announced that she was pregnant? Were you surprised by their reactions?
- 3 Do you know any teens who have gotten pregnant? If so, how did people react when they found out?
- 4 Gaby set out to combat stereotypes about teen moms. What do you think those stereotypes are? Was her project successful?
- 5 Why did some people expect Gaby to get pregnant? If a teen feels that others expect her to get pregnant, do you think that affects her attitude about preventing pregnancy? Would it make her less likely to prevent it? Why or why not?
- 6 How did Gaby's boyfriend Jorge react to her project? If she had really been pregnant, how do you think he would have handled teen fatherhood? What advice do you have for teen guys when it comes to preventing pregnancy?

- 7 Do you think it was hypocritical for Gaby's brother to react so negatively to her pregnancy when he is a teen father himself? How did Javier's situation affect Gaby's attitudes about teen parenthood?
- 8 Many teens have never considered how a pregnancy would affect their lives. Have you thought about what life would be like if you were a teen parent? What are the biggest challenges pregnant and parenting teens face?
- 9 Do you think most teens are as comfortable talking to their parents about sex and relationships as Gaby is? What could parents do to make these conversations easier? Can you talk with your parents about these topics?

## GET THE FACTS

- 3 in 10 girls in the U.S. will get pregnant at least once by age 20; about 1 in 6 will be a teen mom.
- 1 in 10 babies born in the U.S. is born to a teen mother.
- In the U.S., 52 percent of Latinas will get pregnant at least once as teenagers. Latinas have the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates of any group in the U.S.
- Girls in foster care are about 2.5 times more likely to get pregnant and nearly 3 times more likely to be teen moms than their peers who are not in foster care.
- Most teen moms who have babies before they turn 18 do not graduate from high school. Less than 2 percent graduate from college by age 30.
- 8 out of 10 fathers don't marry the teen mothers of their babies.
- Teen parenthood is hard on teens and harder on their children: babies born to teens are more likely to be premature, have health problems, suffer abuse and neglect, and grow up poor. Children of teen mothers are more likely to become teen parents themselves.
- Just under half of high school-age teens have had sex.
- 2 out of 3 teens who have had sex by age 18 say they wish they had waited longer.
- Teens who have sex without protection on a regular basis have an 85 percent chance of pregnancy within a year.

