Beasts of the Southern Wild Discussion Guide

1. What new idea, perspective, and/or setting did you learn about from this film?

2. What is the most impactful or powerful moment in this film to you? What similarities in the film did you find to your life? Community? Culture?

3. What themes do you think were most prevalent in Beasts of the Southern Wild? What does Hushpuppy represent to you in this film?

4. Throughout the film, Hushpuppy listens to different heartbeats. What is the significance of heartbeats in this film?

5. How do the lines of fantasy and realism intertwine through Hushpuppy’s eyes? How was your view of your home different as a child than now?

6. What do you think the aurochs represent in this film? When Hushpuppy finally confronts them, what does that moment signify? What are the aurochs for your community?

7. How do themes of independence and community relate in this film? Do the characters lean more toward one or the other? In what ways are the characters independent and in what ways are the characters dependent?

8. How do you think Hushpuppy would define family? How do you define family?

9. What is your impression of Wink as a father figure? What is your impression of Wink and Hushpuppy’s relationship?

10. What is your opinion of the Bathtub? How are the children of the Bathtub different from the adults? How are age and gender roles in the Bathtub similar to/different from those you observe in your own experience?