Generation Listen’s conversation catalysts are personal, open-ended questions designed to help spark conversation. Cherry pick the ones you feel will resonate the most - or make up your own. Sometimes it takes just three to five juicy questions to keep the conversation flowing.

Open Discussion - Let your group guide the discussion
What struck you most about the story? What surprised or moved you? Which character did you relate to most and why? What do you think is the key takeaway or open question of the episode?

Is Personality Fixed?
Some voices in the episode believe that criminals have a “permanently rotten” part inherent to who they are. On the other end, psychologist Walter Mischel asserts personalities are fundamentally flexible. What do you think of these notions? How do you define ‘personality’ – and in your life experience, do you find it to be fixed or flexible? Do you believe personality can or should be used to explain behaviors? Why or why not? Are there parts of your own personality – or the ‘core’ of who you are – that you think are unchangeable?

You: Now & Then
Consider who you were 5 years ago. How has your personality changed? Are any of your tastes and preferences different? Are you surprised by these changes? What changed you? Do you expect to have the same personality 5 years from now? Why?

Assumptions
The story explores two major assumptions we make about personality. One: that people have distinct personalities that can be understood or explored through specific traits. Two: that people’s traits remain consistent over time and across situations. Does this resonate with you when thinking about your own life and personality? Do you behave differently in different situations or with different people? Have you encountered someone in a new context and been surprised by how they interacted with that environment? Have you ever reframed your approach to something and it helped you? Give an example and explain.