

Pre-viewing Response

Loss (noun): the fact or process of losing something or someone.

Describe a time in your life in which you experienced a **significant loss**. How did you respond to this loss? How did you process and cope with this loss? How does that loss still impact you today?

CHARACTER

Describe the following characters. Include physical description, actions, speech, thoughts, relationships, and anything else you notice about them! You may use point form to do this.

Benjamin Mee

Dylan Mee

Rosie Mee

Kelly Foster

Duncan Mee

Peter MacCreedy

Lily Miska

Walter "Walt" Ferris

Guiding Questions

Part 1

0 – 14:30 minutes

1. What are the first images you see on the screen? What do these images tell you about Benjamin Mee?
2. What does a typical Mee family morning look like?
3. How is the idea of flying into a hurricane symbolic of the Mee family life?
4. What happens in the car while driving to school? Why is the word “pernicious” important?
5. When Benjamin meets his brother Duncan, where do they stop their walk? Why?
6. What is Duncan trying to get Benjamin to do?
7. Why does Benjamin quit his job?
8. What does Dylan’s Principal say to Benjamin that is also important for Benjamin’s life?

Part 2

14:31 – 35:44 minutes

9. What Mee family member seems to have things together? Why do you think this is?

10. Why does the camera focus on the medicine and picture in the Mee bathroom?

11. What is it that shows how Dylan is dealing with everything early in this film?

12. When Rosie can't sleep, what time of day does this happen? Why do you think the camera zooms in on Ben's face?

13. What conflict is in the movie so far?

14. In the morning when Benjamin and Rosie go house hunting, what does Benjamin say that let's us know it is time for a change?

15. What do you see that keeps coming in the background as Benjamin is making his decision to buy the zoo and why is it symbolic (important)?

16. Why does Benjamin decide to buy a zoo?

17. How do Dylan and Duncan react to this decision? Why?

18. When Rosie and Benjamin are sorting through clothing, which item do they talk about?

19. Where do we see Benjamin's first "flashback" of his wife and what did the camera focus on?

20. During that day when Benjamin initially meets the zoo staff, what important question does Kelly Foster ask him? How does he reply?

21. That night Benjamin's employees are discussing him. What do they think will happen? Why?

Part 3

35:46 – 71:00 minutes

22. When Lily comes to see Dylan in the barn, what does she say about his drawings? How does Dylan reply?

23. What does Rosie tell Benjamin that night about why Dylan is being so upset?

24. When Rosie asks Benjamin about her mom's death, what does "Catch the Spirit" mean?

25. Who is Ferris and why does McCreedy have an issue with him?

26. What happens when Walter Ferris comes for a "pop by" inspection?

27. When Buster the bear is loose and is on the hill, what does Benjamin see that was similar to Rosie earlier in the movie? How does that influence what he decides to do with Buster?

28. Kelly says that "it's a lot to take on" (meaning the zoo) and Benjamin finds something that connects to the beginning of the movie. What is that?

29. What does Duncan say to do with the “circus money”? What does Ben end up doing with it?

30. Why doesn't Lily come to Dylan with sandwiches anymore?

Part 4

71:00 – 103:00 minutes

31. What happens at Home Depot?

32. Why does Benjamin take Spar's (tiger's) health so seriously?

33. What piece of advice about life does Benjamin give Dylan that sounds reasonable?

34. What do the computer pictures and the sunlight symbolize (represent) in the film?

35. What logo does Benjamin come up with for the opening day flyer? Why is it important?

36. What key event happens when Ferris comes for the second inspection?

37. What is important about the saying “if you do something for the right reasons, nothing can stop you”?

Part 5

104:00 – 124:00 minutes

38. How is the rain symbolic? What does it REPRESENT?

39. Why is opening day delayed?

40. How does the people climbing over the fallen tree mirror the Mee family adventure?

41. Where does Benjamin take his kids in the end of the film? Why is this important?

WHAT MATTERS MOST?

THEME/BIG IDEA

There are many major themes in this film that demonstrate WHAT MATTERS MOST. For each theme/big idea, explain how these themes/big ideas were shown in the movie. How did the film show WHAT MATTERS MOST about each of these aspects below?! Explain. Be DETAILED. Use complete sentences.

Love

Family

Adventure

Courage

LOSS

POST-VIEWING RESPONSES

Final thoughts and responses. Construct a well-written paragraph response for each question. Each must have thought, detail, and support/evidence, as well as attention to mechanics (spelling, capitalization, punctuation, etc.).

1. "It's not about where an adventure ends, because that's not what the adventure's about. So anything that happens from here on out is a bonus." – Ben Mee
Which is more important, the journey or the destination? Why?

2. What is the role of animals in the film? How do they play a role in shaping the characters?

3. "You know, sometimes all you need is 20 seconds of insane courage. Just, literally, 20 seconds of just embarrassing bravery. And I promise you, something great will come of it."— Benjamin Mee
How is this quote important to the film? Describe.

4. Describe Benjamin Mee's journey as a DYNAMIC CHARACTER. A dynamic character is a character that CHANGES from the beginning of the film to the end of the film. In which way does he undergo a significant inner change? Describe his growth throughout the film. What was he like at the beginning? What was he like at the end??

We Bought A Zoo Assessment

Major Written Responses and Reflections

-What Matters Most

-Post-viewing Responses

Below Target Areas that Need Improvement	Target Standards for this Task	Above Target Evidence of Exceeding Standards
	<p style="text-align: center;">Content (Ideas & Explores Topic)</p> <p>Students ideas are thoughtful and sound. Student's exploration of the topic is imaginative and logical. Student goes in-depth in their responses and shows many levels of thinking about different aspects of the film. Student clearly communicates their thinking.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/5</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Mechanics</p> <p>Student has sound control of sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/5</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;">Support</p> <p>Student provides supporting details consistently (evidence and specific examples from film). They are intentional and provide concrete support to the thoughts and ideas expressed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">/5</p>	

/15 marks