

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

We Bought a Zoo Analysis Questions

Day One

1. What are the first images you see on the screen and what does this tell you about Benjamin Mee?
2. What time of the day does the movie begin and how is that symbolic?
3. What does a typical Mee family morning look like?
4. How is the idea of flying into a hurricane symbolic of the Mee family life?
5. What happens in the car while driving to school and why is the word “pernicious” important?
6. When Benjamin meets his brother Duncan, where do they stop their walk and why?
7. What is Duncan trying to get Benjamin to do?
8. What is the key advice Duncan gives Benjamin that could be symbolic?
9. Why does Benjamin quit his job?
10. What does Dylan’s principal say to Benjamin that is also important for Benjamin’s life?
11. Which Mee family member seems normal and why?
12. Why does the camera focus on the medicine and picture in the Mee bathroom?
13. What is it that shows how Dylan is dealing with everything early in this movie?
14. When Rosie can’t sleep, what time of day does this happen and why does the camera zoom in on Benjamin’s face?
15. What kind of music is playing in the background during this Rosie and Benjamin scene?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

16. What conflict do see in the movie at this point?
17. What does the first 10-15 minutes of the movie tell us will happen?

Day Two (begins at 14:31)

18. In the morning when Benjamin and Rosie go house hunting; what does Benjamin say that let's us know that it is time for a change?
19. 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?
20. Why does Benjamin decide to buy the zoo?
21. How do Dylan and Duncan (Benji's brother) react to this decision and why?
22. When Rosie and Benjamin go through clothing, which item do they talk about?
23. Where do we see Benjamin's first "flashback" of his wife and what did the camera focus on?
24. During the day when Benjamin initially meets the zoo staff, what important question does Kelly Foster ask him and how does he reply?
25. That night in the bar, what do Benjamin's employees think will happen and why?

Day 3

(begins at 35:45)

26. When Lilly comes to see Dylan in the barn, what does she say about his drawings and how does Dylan reply?
27. What does Rosie tell Benjamin that night about why Dylan is being so upset?
28. When Rosie asks Benjamin about her mother's death, what does "Catch the spirit" mean?
29. Why do Dylan and Benjamin fight the very next morning?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

30. Why do you suppose the camera focused on the Boots in the Doorway?
31. Who is Ferris and why does McCreedy have an issue with him?
32. What happens when Walter Ferris comes for a “Pop by” inspection?
33. When Buster the bear gets loose and is on the hill, what does Benjamin see that was similar to Rosie earlier in the movie and how does that influence what he decides to do with Buster?
34. Kelly says that “it’s a lot to take on” (the zoo) and that night, Benjamin finds something that connects to the beginning of the movie. What is this?
35. What does Duncan say to do with the “Circus Money?”
36. What happens with Lilly and Dylan when she talks about Dylan leaving soon?
37. Why does Benjamin decide to invest the \$84,000 into the zoo and what does he ask?
38. Why doesn’t Lilly come to Dylan with sandwiches anymore?

Day 4

(begins at 1:10:59)

39. What happens at the Home Depot?
40. Why does Benjamin take Spar’s (Bengal tiger) health so seriously?
41. Why do Kelly and Benjamin argue about Spar?
42. After Dylan and Benjamin fight at night, what happens the next morning?
43. What piece of advice about life does Benjamin give Dylan that sounds reasonable?
44. What do the computer pics at night and the sunlight symbolize in the movie?
45. What logo does Benjamin come up with for the opening day flyer and why important?

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

46. What does Benjamin say to Dylan about the logo?
47. When Ferris comes for the second inspection what 2 key events happen?
48. Why is the saying, “If you do something for the right reasons, nothing can stop you” important?

Day 5 (begins 1:45:00)

49. How is the coming of rain symbolic?
50. When does the grand opening of the zoo begin?
51. What is the setting like on opening day and why is that symbolic?
52. Why is opening day somewhat delayed?
53. How does the people climbing over the fallen tree mirror the Mee family adventure?
54. Why does the camera show the scene with the red kites, blue skies, and clouds?
55. What do the brothers Benjamin and Duncan say to each other in the end of the movie?
56. Where does Benjamin take his kids in the end and why is this important?
57. What does Benjamin tell his kids that happened the day he met his wife and how does that connect to the earlier part of the movie?
58. Where’s the climax?
59. Is there a resolution? If so, where is it? If not, why not?
60. What is the point of this movie?
61. How does the movie relate to “Appearance vs Reality?”