

Agency Center One

Never Stop Thinking

Welcome!

Here's what you need at this center:

- A reading partner
- Post-its and your reading notebook
- Colored pencils, pens, for making a notebook entry
- Short Film, "The Present - OFFICIAL",
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjqIU5FgsYc>

Introduction

You've spent the last few weeks learning to be more analytical about characters' traits, about the influence of setting on characters, and about how characters suggest motifs and are vehicles for developing themes. In a moment, you'll apply this thinking to a film. You'll need to decide what's worth talking about. You'll want to stop the text at least three times, jot independently each time, and then talk to your partner.

Some tips:

- Back up your ideas with evidence!
- Don't just agree, ask, "what in the film makes you say that?"
- Replay and reread as needed
- Use anchor charts as needed, to remind you of possible analytical lenses.

Step 1

Cue up 'The Present' to the start and play to 0:34 (mom has put the box down on the table and left it). Watch, thinking about what you notice about the characters. What details are most suggestive? What traits are you noticing? What informs your thinking? Jot your own Post-its first, with the big character traits you're noticing.

Step 2

Compare with your partner. What are you each thinking? Why? Replay parts as needed.

Step 3

Play from 0:34 to 1:54 (puppy running after ball). Consider how you'd describe each character, what thinking you've done in your books that might apply here, how the characters are distinct, what informs your thinking, and so on. Jot post-its or start an entry (it might be a visual, chart, or diagram) in your notebook, to capture your thinking so far about these characters.

Step 4

Compare with your partner. How did you each respond? What details seem most important? Replay parts as needed.

Step 5

Play from 1:54 to 3:24 (finish). Jot/sketch/diagram your thinking, perhaps rethinking from the beginning of the narrative. Replay as needed.

Step 6

Compare with your partner. Take a look, as well, at our anchor charts, and see if there is any thinking you haven't done yet. Have you talked about motifs? Possible themes? Symbolism?

Step 7

Take a moment to finish a notebook page about the film, that captures some of your insights.

