

Name(s) _____
Period _____ Due Date ___/___/___

Stolen Summer

“If you ask people to think, that’s when they start complaining.”
~ Rabbi Jacobsen

Essential Guidelines for All Questions:

- state the question you are addressing
- must be completed and submitted via a Google Doc
- edit carefully & cite supporting evidence
- if you’re working in a partnership or group, submit a shared Google Doc; you **must** include each person’s name in the heading of the document

Part One: Characterization

Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 2 ¶s. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

1. Who is the **protagonist** of “Stolen Summer”? Who and/or what is/are the **antagonist(s)**? Thoroughly explain your choices.
2. Choose **one** of the main characters from the film. Provide at least **three** examples of **direct characterization** and at least **three** examples of **indirect characterization** for that character from the film. Thoroughly explain your choices.
3. Identify two examples of **stereotypes** used in this film. How did these stereotypes impact your understanding of the characters and their relationships in this film? Were these stereotypes used effectively, or were they merely demeaning? Thoroughly explain your answer.

Part Two: Perseverance

Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 2 ¶s. **Please refer to the pre-write you did for this film in your journal.** Cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

4. To which character in “Stolen Summer” can you most closely relate to based on your experience with **perseverance** as described in your journal entry? Explain.
5. What kinds of roadblocks did Pete and Danny face as they **persevered**? Were they successful in **persevering**? Were their roadblocks in any way similar to those you faced? Explain.
6. Based on your experience **persevering** in your transition from childhood to adulthood, what advice would you give to the character of Pete that would help him at the end of the film? Explain.

Part Three: Conflict

Conflict is either **internal** or **external**. **Internal** conflicts are conflicts within the character, such as a character battling with her feelings or thoughts, or **person v. self**. **External** conflicts include: **person v. person**, **person v. society**, **person v. nature**, **person v. fate**, **person v. technology**, and **person v. supernatural**. Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it thoroughly in 2 ¶s or less. Cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

7. Identify **two** significant conflicts in this story. What **category** of **conflict** would best describe each example? Defend why and how each example is important to the development of the **plot**.
8. Consider the two sets of parents in this film. What is the major **conflict** that the O’Malleys grapple with, and what is the major **conflict** that the Jacobsens face? Contrast/compare these **conflicts**.
9. Consider the two religions central to this film – Catholicism and Judaism. What are some of the issues of **conflict** that these religions raise for the **protagonist(s)**?

Part Four: Essay

Pick **one** of the questions below and answer it in a 3- to 5-¶ essay *or* you may suggest a more creative way to address the prompt. If you do something other than an essay, however, you *must* get approval from Mr. DeMiero prior to starting on your response. Depth of thought and meaningful **analysis** is what counts here, *not hot air or summary*. Please cite evidence from the film.

10. **Family.** There are many definitions for “family” such as: “*A group of two or more persons related by birth, marriage, adoption, or emotional ties*” or “*A group of two persons or more (one of whom is the householder; see below) related by birth, marriage, or adoption and residing together.*” But these definitions don’t seem to be completely inclusive of our real world experience. So, you have two questions to grapple with here: 1) What is your definition of “family”? Use examples and support from your personal experience. And 2) How is family defined in this film? You may want to compare and contrast the O’Malleys and Jacobsens as families as supporting evidence.
11. **Faith.** Chicago Tribune film critic John Patrakis writes: “*What makes ‘Stolen Summer’ ultimately so effective is the way it conveys how children’s lives require everyday acts of faith. Parents, teachers, clergy and family are constantly giving them information and advice (from “Eat it, it’s good for you” to “You need to say your prayers”) which they are supposed to accept as gospel. ‘Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed,’ the Bible says. That’s pretty much the situation of childhood.*” What do you think? How is faith explored and defined in this film? What do you think director Pete Jones’s tone is toward faith?
12. **Transitions.** Several characters come of age in this film. Pick one of those characters and thoroughly analyze his or her progression from childhood to adulthood, or from innocence to experience. Don’t treat this simplistically – there’s a lot going in this film in terms of character development and your analysis should reveal your depth of understanding.
13. Consider the concept of **perseverance**. How is “Stolen Summer” a story of perseverance? Create something that clearly acknowledges the connections you find to perseverance in this film. **Ideas:** a poem, a mobile, a poster, an original song, a drawing or painting, etc. *You are encouraged to work with others on this.*
14. What, exactly, does Pete accomplish? In the end, what was the outcome of his quest? Who was served by his efforts? Who was “saved”? Who found “heaven”? Explain in a creative manner.

Notes:

“Stolen Summer” © 2002

Pete Jones.....Director/Screenplay

Ben Affleck & Matt Damon....Producers, Project Greenlight

Adiel “Adi” Stein.....Pete O’Malley

Mike Weinberg.....Danny Jacobsen

Aidan Quinn.....Joe O’Malley (Pete’s dad)

Bonnie Hunt.....Margaret O’Malley (Pete’s mom)

Kevin Pollak.....Rabbi Jacobsen (Danny’s dad)

Lisa Dodson.....Mrs. Jacobsen (Danny’s mom)

Brian Dennehy.....Father Kelly (Priest)

Eddie Kaye Thomas.....Patrick O’Malley (Pete’s oldest brother)

Peggy Roeder.....Sister Leonora Mary (Pete’s teacher)