

Name(s) _____

Period _____ Due Date ___/___/___

Rope

“Good and evil, right and wrong were invented for the ordinary average man – the inferior man – because he needs them.”

~ Brandon Shaw

Essential Guidelines:

- clearly identify the question you are addressing
- properly head your paper
- edit carefully and cite plenty of evidence
- *please* use the Google Doc provided in our Google Classroom
- be sure to properly submit your final draft via the Google Classroom
- you *may* print a hard copy following our class guidelines and turn it in to the class basket, but I prefer the Google Doc

Part One: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

1. Consider and describe the **mood** and **tone** of this film. Does the **mood** change? Is there anything unique about the **tone** of this film?
2. Cite at least two concrete examples of **foreshadowing** used in this film. Also consider the use of **motifs** as a form of **foreshadowing**.
3. Consider the concept of **characterization** in this film. Briefly discuss how Hitchcock develops one of the main characters in this film. You may want to address the concepts of **stereotypes**, **flat v. round** characters, **protagonist(s)** and **antagonists**, and/or **direct** and **indirect** characterization.

Part Two: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

4. We know that there are essentially **three types of movement** in film: 1) the viewer’s eye searches and scans the screen, 2) characters or objects move in relation to the frame, and 3) the camera moves across, into or away from its own field of vision. Cite a memorable scene from this film for each of these **three types of movement**.
5. Analyze the importance of the set in this film. What considerations had to go into the **set construction** in order to shoot this film as it was? What considerations did Hitchcock have to consider for the **lighting**, **blocking** and **audio**?
6. Analyze a memorable scene in terms of **Camera Blocking and Movement**. Refer to your Film Production Vocabulary handout. Why did Hitchcock use these compositions in these scenes? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with his selection?

FILM ANALYSIS

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Part Three: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it thoroughly in about 5 ¶s. Depth of thought and analysis is what counts here, *not hot air*. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

7. Most people assume that “Rope” was at least in part based on the sensational Leopold and Loeb murders. Do a little research into this connection and decide for yourself whether there is a basis for this claim. Explain and defend your findings.
8. Arthur Laurents’ script *did not* have the opening scene in it in which the murder takes place. Hitchcock added that himself. In fact, Laurents has said that he thinks that the murder scene destroyed some of the tension that existed in his script since the audience knows that a murder really has taken place. Laurents thought the screenplay was stronger when there is some suspense about David’s death. What do you think? Would the movie have been stronger or weaker if it had followed Laurents’ original script?
9. Is this a film of a play, or a play that has been filmed? Or *what?! Why* did Hitchcock choose to shoot the film in this manner? Identify and defend at least two reasons.
10. What did you think of the film’s trailer? Why did Hitchcock shoot and release a trailer that is made up of scenes that aren’t even in the movie?
11. Who is responsible for David Kentley’s murder? Choose one character and defend your choice with ample evidence from the film and other relevant sources.
12. This film is filled with double entendre. Identify at least three examples of Hitchcock’s use of double meaning through his use of visuals, dialogue, symbols, etc.
13. In the mini-documentary on the DVD of the behind-the-scenes work on “Rope,” several of those who were interviewed alluded to this film as having a strong thematic undercurrent of homosexuality. Screenwriter Arthur Laurents, in fact, states that he believes Hitchcock treated the two lead characters incredibly humanely given the social climate and attitudes of the time toward homosexuality. What do you think? Was the lead characters’ homosexuality apparent to you on your first viewing? Is homosexuality even relevant to this film?

NOTE: *In late 1999, the film “The Talented Mr. Ripley” created quite a stir from all sides of the social and political spectrum because the lead character (played by Matt Damon) was a cold-blooded serial killer who happened to be gay. There have been other films that have similarly controversial – “Strangers on a Train” (1951), “Compulsion” (1959), “Swoon” (1992), “Black Swan” (2010) and others – but “Rope” is considered among the first American films to have garnered such critical attention.*

Notes:

Release Date.....1948

DirectorAlfred Hitchcock
ScreenplayArthur Laurents
Based on the play byPatrick Hamilton
Treatment byHume Cronyn

Characters:

Rupert CadellJames Stewart
Brandon ShawJohn Dall
Phillip MorganFarley Granger
Mr. Henry KentleySir Cedric Hardwicke
Mrs. AtwaterConstance Collier
Mrs. Wilson (maid)Edith Evanson
David KentleyDick Hogan
Janet WalkerJoan Chandler

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Kenneth LawrenceDouglas Dick