

Date 12 / 22 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle The Breakfast ClubAuthor / Director / John Hughes

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I have seen *The Breakfast Club* a few times now, including on my own and in theology class, but I decided to watch it again at home and do a log on it because it is such a good movie.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

The Breakfast Club begins with five different students, John Bender, Andrew Clark, Brian Johnson, Allison Reynolds, and Claire Standish who are sentenced to Saturday detention in the library at Shermer High School in Chicago, Illinois. Each of the student has their own personality and disposition, as they all come from entirely different cliques, but they are not complete strangers to each other. When they arrive, the assistant principal, Richard Vernon, lays down the rules and tells them they have to each write a thousand word essay about who the students are. Vernon leaves and sits in his office for a good portion of the movie, and, in the meantime, the students interact with one another. Bender antagonizes Claire and mocks Brian and Andrew, while Allison has random and unannounced outbursts, making everyone view her as a complete freak. The kids pass time through various activities, and they break down barriers by learning more about each other. Even though they seem like completely different people, they in fact realize that they have a lot in common, such as the struggles and harsh relationships they have with their parents. However, they do fear that they won't be friends outside of detention and that they will return to their falsely accepting cliques. At the end of the day, Brian writes the essay for everyone, and he argues to Vernon that there is no need to explain who they are because Vernon has already formed preconceptions and stereotypes about them.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

The major themes in *The Breakfast Club* are teenage rebellion against authority figures and stereotypes. Because the students come from different cliques and completely different backgrounds, they appear to have absolutely nothing in common, and the day in detention seems like it will be a wasted and awkward attempt at friendship. Nevertheless, as time goes on, the students break down barriers and begin to tell each other about who they really are despite their appearances and actions. All of them have difficult and troubling relationships with their parents, either because they are abused, used, neglected, or have other various conditions placed on them by their parents. Most of the kids also are either in detention because of the indirect or direct effects of their parents. Once they release all of their anger through conversation and opening up, all of them realize how undesirable of situations they have all grown up in, and they essentially vow to never act the same way their parents acted to their own kids. Moreover, in terms of teenage rebellion, the assistant principal Mr. Vernon is displayed as very demeaning and just a gross human being in general. Bender is the only one who stands up to him because he is more accustomed to him in detention, but they ultimately all rebel by having Brian write the essay for everyone, which went against Vernon's instructions. As for stereotyping, the movie attempts to break down any of the common prejudices that people have against each other. Even though the students consisted of a typical nerd, a princess, a jock, a criminal, and a basket case, they all developed to be friends throughout the movie, suggesting that stereotypes are in fact meaningless and just what appears on the outside.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

There is no much physical symbolism in the movie because it is relatively simple with a straightforward and uncomplicated plot. Other than the fact that the five characters obviously symbolize five of the most common stereotypes given to people in any high school or society that has a diverse array of people, Mr. Vernon may symbolize all of the oppression and pressures placed on kids by their parents to fit particular roles in society. This is exactly what the group as a whole despised. Moreover, the title "Breakfast Club," though referring to an early morning detention, may also be relevant to the fact that all of the kids that were in detention were similar and part of the same club, that is, the human race.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

The Breakfast Club is by far one of my all time favorite classic movies because of its relevance and pertinence in my life, especially because I am in high school. Although the stereotyping is obviously not as bad because I go to an all guys school where there is significantly less drama and crises, there are people who are typical and prime examples of some of the stereotypes in the movie, such as the jocks, the nerds, the outcasts, and more. However, it is not like these groups, or cliques, are distinguished and defined so much that there is no interaction between people with different interests and personalities; rather, people at Jesuit are often friends with diverse groups of people. Still, though, people are often judged by how they look and the people they are primarily friends with, and so almost everyone is assigned some sort of stereotype at one time or another. Even I have heard people talking behind my back derogatorily in a manner as if they had known me; however, I did not think I had ever seen or met them anywhere before. This idea of unfair stereotyping and judging people by their appearances could not be more clear in the famous American adage, "You never truly know someone until you've walked a mile in their shoes." People can't be truly understood and comprehended until others actually spend time with them, through the good and the bad, so that they can fully grasp their characteristics and personality. Moreover, the same concept is seen in Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* when John tries to participate in one of the rituals that boys go through at the Savage Reservation. Unfortunately, because John is not the same skin color as the savages or from the same race, he is unable to participate in the ritual, even though he possesses the same desire for meaning and spirituality that they do. John and the savages are ultimately not even that different, considering he grew up only exposed to the Savage Reservation. Overall, I do find *The Breakfast Club* poetic because it encourages the equal chances of all people when it comes to forming relationships and bonds with others. Rather than reject someone because he or she fulfills some sort of stereotype, the movie encourages people to get to know others on a more complex and genuine level, one that can never be achieved by appearances

alone
over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)