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Literature and film

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*Dead Poet’s Society* Summative

PART I

1. In our class, we have defined drama to be comprised of three main elements; these elements are Romance, Suspense and Emotion. The Movie *Dead Poet’s Society* uses all three of the elements of drama. We see emotion numerous times but the most poignant example is when Neil’s actions bring about emotion from all in the movie. We see Suspense in numerous spots like when the boys are hiding in their room, worried that they will be suspected for wrongdoing. Romance is also shown in numerous ways.
2. Mr. Keating wants his students to learn how to express themselves and to truly be themselves. Mr. Keating wants his students to live their life to the fullest as who they really are, not who someone else wants them to be. He talks about carpe diem and excites his students. He teaches that they can reach their dreams. This is a very effective teaching method for this point but it comes at the cost of the students’ personal lives and other classes.
3. Mr. Keating’s carrier should have not have ended that way, but I cannot see a more fitting way for it to end. His career at Welton ended with him being himself and teaching others what he believed. He was not letting others force him to teach from the text book word for word. If he had stayed, he would not be able to teach well anymore. He is the kind of person who can’t do something that he does not believe in. he would have been forced to do so if he stayed.
4. I feel the plot and the emotion gripping action are the elements of film making that are best used in this film. The plot is dramatic and hart wrenching; just as it seems to be on the tipping point of getting better it gets much worse. The characters have very likeable personas and can be easily related to.

PART II

1. The poem “O Captain, My Captain” is very suitable to the plot of the movie *Dead Poet’s Society.* The most notable way is to the relation to Neil’s actions at the end of the movie. There is also a relation to the end of Mr. Keating’s Carrier at Welton.
2. Mr. Keating intends the boys to understand the phrase suck ‘all the marrow out of life’ as living your life to the fullest. I believe that the boys took it this way but went a little further. They took it as a do whatever you want, no-mater the risk.
3. We can take a few different things from the ‘road not taken’ poem and ‘Ulysses’. The primary thing that I get from these poems, is that you need to follow your own path and do the best that you can do. I feel that the boys took this as follow your own path and do what you want to do.
4. The final speech from a “Midsummer’s Night Dream” is appropriate for the character of Neil because of Neil’s actions in the end of the movie. He was ‘escaping’ and saying goodnight to the world.

PART III

Mr. Clemens advises the young to do as they are told (for the most part) and be a part of the larger group. The exact opposite of what Mr. Keating has taught. Mr. Keating teaches individuality and freedom while Mr. Clemens obedience with defiance. Mr. Keating wants his students to live life to the fullest as their true selves, not who they are told to be; although it is a dangerous thing if taken too far, it is something that the world needs to learn about.

The Lesson was taken too far on numerous occasions, but the most obvious occurrence of this was the death of Neil. He couldn’t stand not taking life to the fullest, and if he couldn’t do so in the way that he pleased he would rather not live at all. The Lesson of “Carpe Diem” is a very reverent one to each and every one of us, but we must know that it has to be taken in moderation as nothing quite works out how is should in our twisted world.

This film is about defying convention and the good and bad that can come from it. It is a movie that teaches of defying conventions in moderation; some defiance is a good thing, we cannot sit back and watch others do as they please with the world, but we cannot be overly defiant as that lends to chaos. The message of “Carpe Diem”(as the students interpreted it) and Mr. Clemens lessons are both the extremes of the spectrum, we need to be somewhere in the middle. That is how I see this movie teaches us. If I were to adapt Mr. Clemens speech to a film version, I would have the writer be and old, kind and wise person. For example someone similar to Julie Andrews. She is authoritative, wise and kind. She would best be able to portray the message with genuine and earnest interest in the wellbeing of the viewer.