

PV Log: (circle one) Poem / **Movie** / Picture / LyricDate 3/15/14Title Dead Poets SocietyAuthor / Director / Peter Weir

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Watched for the first time in Mr. Cheney's theology class freshman year; watched again this year at home as required movie for Poetic Vision

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

This movie is about students at a very rigorous, intense, follow-the-rules school who become inspired by a "different" English teacher who encourages them to think freely. Mr Keating is not the average teacher at this disciplinary prep school, and he has strange teaching methods that encourage his students to become free thinkers. The story evolves around Neil Perry and Todd Anderson. Neil revives the Dead Poets Society, a secret society that meets in a cave and reads poetry at late hours. Neil has a very strict father who tells his son exactly what to do and allows no freedom, playing a huge role in the development of the plot.

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

The theme of this movie is not letting society tell you how to think. The society of this movie is the school, and this society is strict, disciplined, honored, and excellent. The school forms them into people who follow the letter of the law. John Keating is these students way out of this system, a doorway into the real world of creativity, poetry, and beauty. Instead of conforming to the school's ways, the students take advantage of their time and "seize the day." This movie encourages us to do the same and seize the day instead of sitting around doing nothing.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This movie is interesting because it follows many different main characters who all share common interests. Keating is a symbol for being free thinkers and not letting society tell you what to do, while the headmaster is everything in society that holds us down and puts us in our place.

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

I love this movie because it has many poetic traits. For one, it is actually of or pertaining to poetry, but it is also more than that. It is about examining the poetry piece by piece, digesting it, sleeping on it, write one's own poetry. It also gives the great message of not giving up in times of despair, because we see what happens when a man loses all hope, and the effects are terrible on everyone including his family and best friends. Although Neil's suicide represents a selfish out to a situation that didn't need it, Neil's life on earth represented poetic on quite a few levels.