

Out Stealing Horses: Coming of Age

Out Stealing Horses is a text about a lot of things, but one of the things it does well is present a protagonist who is, during the flashback, “coming of age.” This motif is not uncommon to directors, actors, and audiences. In fact, it’s a popular motif in our culture, perhaps because our current culture is so focused on the youth and the buying power they wield.

With this in mind, I would like to meld the Norwegian text with your experiences as a purveyor of popular culture. I’m going out on a limb here, but I assume that most of you both watch and enjoy movies, so we will use movies as a means by which to explore the motif as it relates to the text.

As we read *Out Stealing Horses*, you will also be selecting a coming of age film. And as we analyze the text, you will be independently analyzing your film selection, much like you did the short film *Dottie Gets Spanked*.

Film Selection

Ideally, you should be selecting a film that fulfills the following requirements:

- Presents a coming of age motif
- Is a film you have not seen it before
- Is not an American film
- Is available to you via the library, a friend, Netflix, etc.

Everyone in class received a permission slip, so your parent/guardian is aware of this assignment. Select your film accordingly. I am providing you with a list of films from a website I located. **I HAVE NOT VIEWED THESE FILMS!** The website stated that they are coming of age films, but there is no guarantee. With that in mind, you must first, select a film that your parental unit/guardian has agreed upon; second, is actually a “coming of age” film. Do you need to select a film from this website? Perish the thought! If you have another film in mind, please let me know. However, it is essential that you do let me know the name of your film as I want to avoid as many repeats as possible.

What Next?

Once you have selected your film, you will need to view it carefully, thoroughly, and more than once. As you will be writing several reflections in this class, I have no doubt that you will have an excellent understanding of the text and that you will be exercising your writing abilities. Therefore, your final evaluation for this unit will not be a formal paper on the novel: it will be a presentation on your film as it fulfills the elements of a coming of age “visual text.” It will also touch upon similarities and differences between the text and the film. Essentially, think of this as a comparison and contrast presentation between the novel and a film.

The Presentation

For this assignment you may **not** work with a partner. You will be preparing a formal five-minute presentation for the class. This presentation will consist of a short plot summary of the film, an analysis of how the film fulfills or does not fulfill elements of the motif in question, how it compares to the text, and any other thoughts you have as a critic.

How will you be graded?

You will be graded on a formal outline of your presentation (more on that later) and your presentation itself. You will be timed. If you exceed your limit, you will be docked points (we have a big class, so there's only so much time we can spend on this). We will spend some time in class discussing presentation and preparing for the big day. If you are deathly afraid of speaking in front of the class, fear not: join the majority of our population. I know that this class will provide you with a positive environment.