

City of God Questions - Pick 5

1. Does the film glamorize violence? Or is violence used to produce empathy in the audience? Or both?
2. Why does Meirelles force us to look at (rather than avert our eyes to) graphic details of violence?
3. How does Meirelles' use of violence compare to Quentin Tarantino's use of violence (amusement/humor)?
4. What is the connection suggested between masculinity & violence? Between upward mobility & criminality?
5. What is the most striking scene in the movie?
6. What does the alteration of chronology illustrate or disrupt? Consider the way time functions in the film.
7. Why is the story told through Rocket's eyes, and what is the effect?

8. What is the role of music in the film?

9. Discuss the line between realism & fiction in the film? How does Meirelles' approach (using non-professional actors and 70% improvisation) affect this further, if at all?

10. What are the intimate/quiet moments of the film? Why are they important, if at all?

11. How does the film present who is an insider vs. outsider? Consider the role of the city, its mappings & boundaries.

12. David Ryan says that Rocket "lacks depth"; that we sympathize with him but cannot figure him out – he "seems to function as a *tabula rasa*, being inscribed by the environment in which he lives. Not finished growing, not offering too much insight, not a fully developed character, he is our guide through a lethally ironic world in which the police arm the very gangs they are charged to apprehend." Discuss this description, as well as "What compels him to avoid (as much as he can) the perils of being a hoodlum?"