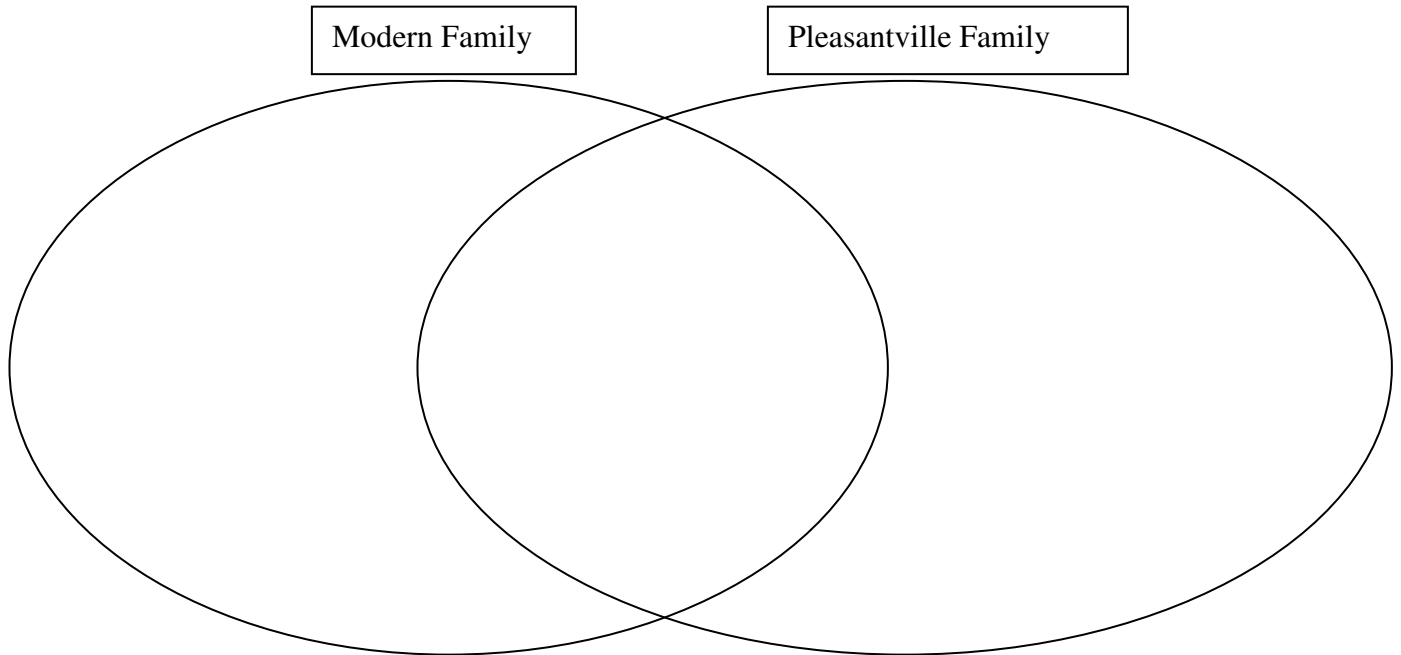


Pleasantville Film Guide

1. Compare and contrast the 'modern family' with the 'Pleasantville family' at the beginning of the movie.



2. What topics are being taught at school in the 'modern times?'

3. What topics are being taught in the 'Pleasantville times?'

4. How do Jennifer and David first react when they find themselves in Pleasantville?

5. What is in the books at the Pleasantville Library when Jen sees the first one?

6. When does Jennifer first start to think it might be an interesting place?

7. In the first part of the movie, we saw that David (as Bud) was trying not to change anything in Pleasantville, but later, we see that he has started to agree with Jennifer that there are some things they should try to change. How does David try to change things?

8. What question do the people ask Bud as they begin to change colors? What confused them about his answer?

9. When Jen tells the 'Pleasantville people' the story to one of the books, it starts to fill in. What book is it? What is symbolic of that book?

10. What happens to the people as they begin to read books? What does this symbolize?

11. The 60's era comes about with a town meeting that symbolically discusses the historical events of the Civil Rights Era. What else does the town do to symbolize the Civil Rights movement?

12. Why does Bud change colors? What did he learn?

13. What other reasons do people seem to have for changing colors?

14. When the town can't stop the changes, what event do they resort to in order to keep the people from learning new things?

15. The Mayor wants to stop the riots. He proposes several steps to stop them. What are two of the steps that seem acceptable?

16. What are two steps that seem unacceptable?

17. When Bud is in jail, he's reading "Pleasantville's Very First Trial Ever." What are Bud and Bill's charges?

18. What does Bill say in his defense?

19. What does Bud say in his defense?

20. What does Bud teach George that makes him change colors? (Hint: it has to do with expected gender roles.)

21. Why does the Mayor change colors? What does this symbolize?

22. When Bud returns to the real world, why does Jennifer decide to stay in Pleasantville?

23. List any symbolism or allusions in the movie.

24. What is the theme of the movie?

25. How is the director trying to influence the way you see modern society?