

# ***Dead Poets Society***

## ***Part 1:***

Think of a time when a teacher made an impression on you. It could be a positive or a negative impression. Describe the incident in detail, but leave the teacher's name blank or call them "Mr. M" or "Mrs. M."

## ***Part 2:***

Below is a list of major characters; as you watch, note any observations—about behavior, perspectives, values, etc. Many of the characters look alike, so pay attention!

- Mr. John Keating (Robin Williams)
- Neil Perry (Robert Sean Leonard)
- Todd Anderson (Ethan Hawke)
- Knox Overstreet (Josh Charles)
- Charlie Dalton (Gale Hansen)
- Richard Cameron (Dylan Kussman)
- Steven Meeks (Allelon Ruggiero)
- Gerard Pitts (James Waterston)
- Dean Nolan (Norman Lloyd)
- Mr. McAllister (Leon Pownall)
- Mr. Perry (Kurtwood Smith)

### ***Part 3:***

<b>Topic</b>	<b>What does the film have to say about this topic? Give an example from the movie to support your response.</b>
conformity	
following and leading	
one's passion and life	
creativity	
daring and caution	
looking at life from different perspectives	
carpe diem (seize the day)	

### ***Part 3:***

**Answer the following question in a complete sentence.**

1. In your opinion, which character is transformed the most through his experiences in the film?  
Explain and support your argument with specific proof.

## ***Part 4:***

### **Questions to Guide Your Viewing:**

1. What are the “four pillars” of the school? How do the boys “revise” these pillars?
2. Explain Todd’s reluctance to join the Dead Poets Society. How does Neil help?
3. How does each meeting of the society begin?
4. Do the boys hold true to the original society from Keating’s day? Explain your response.
5. How does Mr. Keating respond to one “slack” student’s poem?
6. What effect does Keating’s teaching have on Knox?
7. How does Charlie illustrate the “point” of the courtyard activity?
8. How does the presence of girls affect the society?
9. How do the boys react to Charlie’s newspaper stunt? What is the result? Respond to Charlie’s attitude.
10. What is the dean’s teaching advice for Mr. Keating?
11. How does Keating respond to Charlie’s stunt?
12. Describe the interaction between Neil and his father. Compare to that between Neil and Keating.

13. What does the society inspire Knox to do?
14. How does Neil embody the transition from Romanticism to Realism?
15. Is Todd's reaction to Neil's act out of character? Explain. Compare to Keating's and Dean Nolan's.
16. Do you agree with Cameron about the responsibility? Explain your answer.
17. Do you find the final scene heroic, disappointing, Romantic, Realistic, or something else? Explain.

**After Viewing questions:**

1. What are the attributes of Mr. Keating?
2. Which character is the most undaunted by the school?
3. Which character has the most charisma?
4. How is Mr. Keating's teaching style unorthodox?
5. Describe one character's zeal for something.
6. Explain how the students conform and don't conform to the standards at the school.
7. Which characters would you consider romantics?
8. Which characters would you consider realists?