



Gravity

A Film by Alfonso Cuarón

Film Study

ENG 30-2



“We have this connection to Earth. I mean, it's our home. And I don't know how you can come back and not, in some way, be changed. It may be subtle. You see difference in different people in their general response when they come back from space.”

- ISS Astronaut Nicole Scott

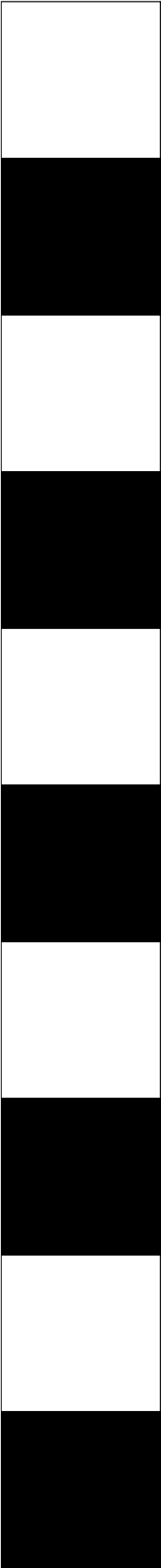
EARTH

"When we look down at the earth from space, we see this amazing, indescribably beautiful planet. It looks like a living, breathing organism. But it also, at the same time, looks extremely fragile."

-ISS Astronaut Ron Garan

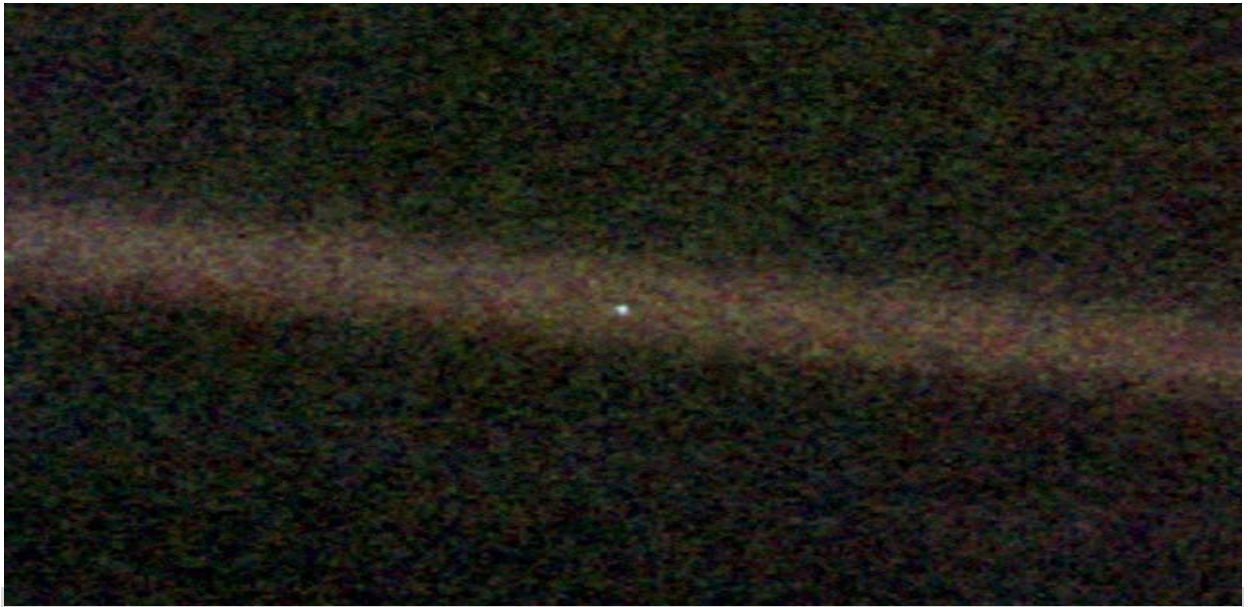
When you see the picture above what feelings come up? Imagine that you were in space and could see this image in person, would that change how you feel about it? If no, why do you think that is. If yes, what would change?

Write a brief response.



“Sometimes you have to go up
really high to see how small
you are.”

-Felix Baumgartner



“Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

-Carl Sagan

STOP! Watch the film.



Gravity is a 2013 British-American 3D science-fiction/techno-thriller and space drama film. Directed, co-written, co-produced and co-edited by Alfonso Cuarón, the film stars Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as astronauts involved in the mid-orbit destruction of a space shuttle and their attempt to return to Earth.

Cuarón wrote the screenplay with his son Jonás and attempted to develop the project at Universal Studios. After the rights to the project were sold, the project found traction at Warner Bros. instead. The studio approached multiple actresses before casting Bullock in the female lead role. Robert Downey Jr. was also involved as the male lead before leaving the project and being replaced by Clooney. David Heyman, who previously worked with Cuarón on *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, produced the film with him. London-based VFX company Framestore spent over 3 years creating most of the visual effects for the entire movie encompassing over 80 minutes of screen time.

Gravity opened the 70th Venice International Film Festival in August 2013. Its North American premiere was three days later at the Telluride Film Festival. It received a wide release in the United States and Canada on October 4, 2013. The film was met with universal acclaim from critics and audiences alike; both groups giving praise for Emmanuel Lubezki's cinematography, Steven Price's musical score, Cuarón's direction, Bullock's performance and Framestore's visual effects.

In 2014, *Gravity* is nominated for 10 Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director for Cuarón and Best Actress for Bullock. The film was also awarded seven Critics Choice Awards and a Golden Globe Award for Best Director for Cuarón.

Theme

Letting Go—Rebirth

Even though the tagline of the film is “Don’t Let Go” and Dr. Stone repeatedly tries to hang on for her life, there is an overall theme of letting go of sorrow and moving forward. What scenes, dialogue, or imagery would prove this point?

Use the theme of “letting go” to discuss Dr. Stone’s journey in the film. How does her character progress and how does it connect to the theme of letting go?



Theme

Letting Go—Rebirth

Explain how each of the following pictures explain the theme of letting go and starting over.

