

Gravity

A Film by Alfonso Cauron

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 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.

"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 "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

A PALE BLUE DOT	
What do the quotes on the previous page try and accomplish? Is there some larger meaning behind them or are they just the words of some guys who are trying to sound smart? Explain your reasoning.	
THAT LITTLE SPEC OF NOTHING?	
Imagine that you were on a distant planet filled with intelligent beings. You point up at a far away star in the sky and tell them that your home is there. They laugh at you (telepathically because they're that cool) and ask how anything so small and insignificant could be so important. Respond by either agreeing or disagreeing with them. Explain your response.	

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 Clooneyas astronauts involved in the mid-orbit destruction of aspace 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 companyFramestore 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 Festivalin 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.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

The film centers around two characters, each with distinct personalities and motivations. Briefly explain who the characters are as people (do NOT explain what they did in the movie). How would you describe them to someone else who asked "what's that person like?"



Dr. Ryan Stone



Lieutenant Matt Kowalski

"Gravity is a film that does not need flashbacks, character development or romance. The characters stand on their own in moments of crisis. They do what they need to do to survive without retelling their whole life story in the process. None of the character stuff is important for a movie like this anyway."

"Without knowing the characters' history how could we possibly relate to them? We know very little about why these people are up in space and even less about what their life was like back home. What the movie needed was flashbacks or something to inform the audience about the characters' past."

Which quote is right and which is wrong? Do you agree completely with the quote you selected or do you agree with some parts and not others. Explain.

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?



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





FILM REVIEW

I give this film:

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Would you recommend this film to others? Why or why not?
Give it a rating out of something. Explain why it got the rating it did.

out of: