

What is it to be Human?

“Bicentennial Man”

Film Study.

Outcome 2. Describe and analyse a range of ultimate questions. What does the film teach us about the mystery and purpose of human life?

Bicentennial Man, through the story of Andrew, charts the development and growth of a "person".

He goes through many stages, roughly equivalent to a human being. For example:

- Learning – Curiosity - Creativity;
- A Sense of Individuality - of Uniqueness - of the Ego (no longer "One" but "I");
- An Awareness of Death;
- The responsibilities of Freedom; of Love; of Suffering; of Sex

Many aspects of what it is to be human are touched on: the importance of clothing, of work, of overcoming fear.

Some memorable quotes

"Andrew is not a person but a form of property"

"One is glad to be of service"

"There is no price for individuality, become what you are capable of."

"One has never been asked to wear clothing"

"I feel responsible to help you to become whatever you can become."

"Something that means so much to so many people must be worth having."

"You wished for freedom, you must accept the consequences."

"The secret is imperfections."

"Humans are terrible messes."

"I'm dying Andrew – otherwise, I'm fine."

"In order to seek out my destiny I need to seek out my own (people)"

"Can a human being just leave?"



Some of the themes under consideration are...

- **Balance between human freedom and giving service**
What is human freedom and how does it square with human responsibility?
- **Fulfilment of Individuality/Talents/Gifts**
What is the purpose of human life?
- **Search for community to find Identity**
How should humans relate to each other?
- **Acceptance of Imperfection/Suffering/Mortality**
Why do people suffer? Why do people die?
- **Need for Family**
Why is family so critical to humans?
- **Recognition of the Dignity of Human Life.**
What is special about humankind in relation to the rest of the natural world (living and non-living and the cosmos)?

	Well Below Expected Level 1	Below Expected Level 2	Expected Level 3	Above the Expected Level 4	Well Above the Expected Level 5
Describe Andrew's journey of discovery as he experiences what it is to become human.	Describes an aspect of Andrew's journey of discovery identifying a key experience	Describes a couple aspects of Andrew's journey of discovery identifying two key experiences	Describes Andrew's journey of discovery in identifying what it is to be human according to the film	Describes Andrew's journey of discovery in a more detailed way identifying what it is to be human according to the film	Describes Andrew's journey of discovery in a sophisticated way identifying what it is to be human according to the film
Choose two of the themes and associated questions and respond to the existential questions	Identifies two themes in the film and addresses the questions posed.	Discusses how two themes are developed in the film and addresses the questions posed.	Discusses how two themes are developed in the film and addresses the questions posed using more detail.	Discusses how two themes are developed in the film and addresses the questions posed showing some integration of thought.	Discusses how two themes are developed in the film and addresses the questions posed showing greater integration of thought.
Identify points of Connection and Disconnection between the Christian Vision of the Human Person and the film	Identifies one point of connection or disconnection	Identifies two points of connection or disconnection	Identifies and explains the points of connection or disconnection	Explains in some detail the points of connection or disconnection	Expansive explanation of the connections and disconnection
Reflect personally on the most important aspects of human life?	Names and discusses one aspect of life	Names and discusses a couple of aspects of life	Names and discusses a few aspects of life.	Names and discusses a few aspects of life in a more detailed way	Names and discusses a number of aspects of life in an integrated and coherent way.