

Dead Poets Society

Dead Poets Society is a 1989 American drama film starring Robin Williams. It is set in 1959 at a fictional boarding school for boys, called Welton Academy.

Watch the film up to 32:30 and do the following activities:

1. Match the main characters with their names:

- Dr. Nolan
- Mr. John Keating
- Todd Anderson
- Neil Perry
- Cameron
- Stephen Meeks
- Charlie Dalton
- Knox Overstreet
- Mr. Perry



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____



e. _____



f. _____



g. _____



h. _____

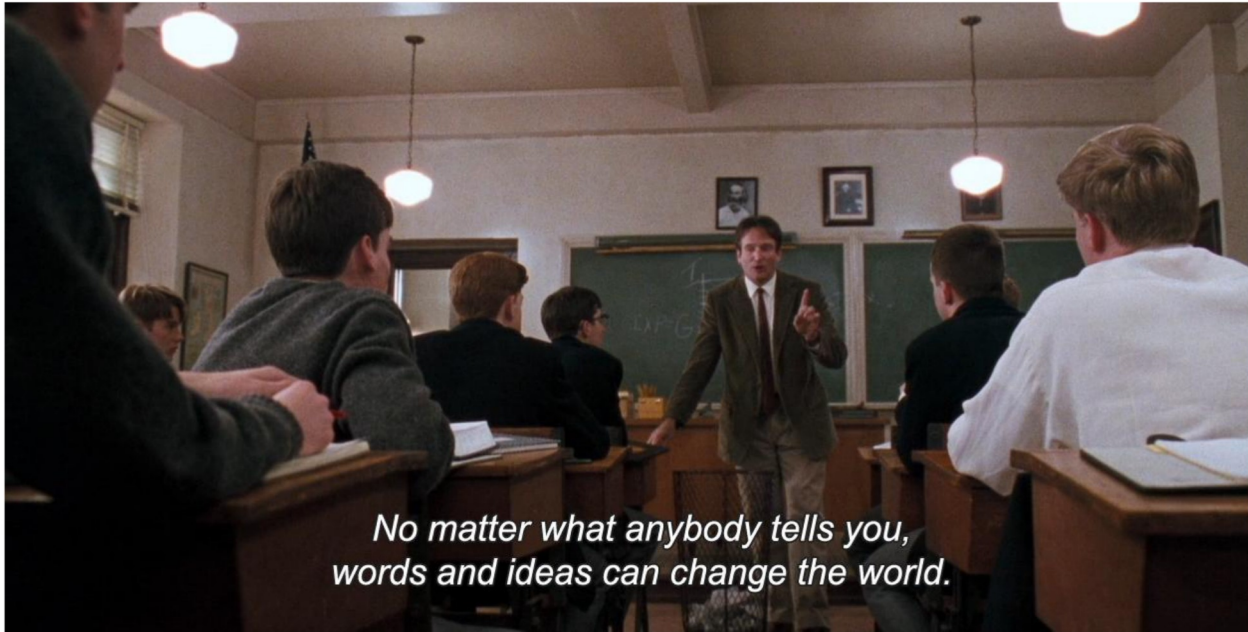


i. _____

2. Use the following adjectives to describe the main characters:

confident, hard-working, shy, insecure, unconventional, rebellious, reckless, romantic, extroverted, controlling, strict, gifted, traditional, attention seeker, authoritative, quiet, idealistic, ambitious, rigid, nervous, bright, popular, high-achiever, conservative, selfish,





3. Choose the correct answer for each of the following questions: (more than one answer may be correct)

a. What does Neil's father want him to study?

- i. Law ii. Medicine iii. Economics

b. "Carpe Diem" does NOT mean

- i. Seize the day ii. It is what it is iii. YOLO iv. Take advantage of the opportunity

c. Mr. Keating wants his students to call him

- i. "Uncle Tom" ii. "O, Captain! My captain!" iii. "Mr. Keating"

d. Mr. Keating believes that poetry can be measured

- i. True ii. False

e. According to Mr. Keating, we study poetry because

- i. we want to succeed in school and in life
ii. poetry is important for anyone who wants to be a banker or a doctor
iii. we are members of the human race, and love, romance, beauty are the things we live for

f. The Dead Poets Society is a group of students who sneak out of school to

- i. read poetry
- ii. do their homework
- iii. meet girls

g. Where does the Dead Poets Society meet?

- i. In the school library
- ii. In the school yard
- iii. In an Indian cave

4. Watch the film up to 1:20 and answer the following questions: (more than one answer may be correct)

a. In what ways does each of the students decide to “seize the day”?

Neil Perry wants to

Charlie Dalton adopts the name, and

Knox Overstreet

b. Why is Todd disappointed by his parents’ birthday present?

- i. He doesn’t like it
- ii. He expected a car
- iii. It is the same as last year’s

c. The purpose of Education according to Mr Keating is

- i. to teach students to think of their own
- ii. to prepare them for university studies

d. Mr Keating tells his students to climb on the desk

- i. to look taller
- ii. to look at things in a different way

e. Mr. Keating tells Cameron, Pitts and Knox to walk in a circle to show them that

i. it is difficult to find your own identity and keep your beliefs when you are with other people

ii. everybody wants to be accepted by others

What do you think is going to happen next?

5. Watch the rest of the film and decide if the following sentences are True or False

a. Neil goes to Mr. Keating because he thinks that the professor will take his side.

b. Mr Keating tells Neil to ignore his father and follow his dream.

c. Neil tells his father about his role in the play.



- d. Neil's father takes him away from Welton Academy because he cannot pay the tuition.
- e. Neil's mother stands up for her son.
- f. Charlie Dalton is expelled for his participation in Dead Poets Society.
- g. Todd's parents are very understanding and support their son during the investigation.
- h. Cameron doesn't care what will happen to Mr Keating.
- i. As a result of Neil's death, Mr Keating quits his job.

6. *Go back to activity 2. How would you describe the main characters now? Have you changed your mind for any of them?*

7. *Questions for further discussion*

- a. Would you like to attend a school like Welton? Why (not)?
- b. Would you want Mr. Keating as a teacher? Why?
- c. Who is responsible for the tragedy? Why?

List of Poems in Dead Poets Society

<http://www.antiromantic.com/category/poetry/>

- [She Walks In Beauty - Lord Byron](#)
- [The Ballad of William Bloat - Raymond Calvert](#)
 - [The Prophet - Abraham Cowley](#)
- [To the Virgins, Make Much of Time - Robert Herrick](#)
 - [The Road Not Taken - Robert Frost](#)
 - [The Congo - Vachel Lindsay](#)
- [A Midsummer Night's Dream - William Shakespeare](#)
 - [Sonnet XVIII - William Shakespeare](#)
 - [Excerpt from Ulysses - Alfred Lord Tennyson](#)
 - [Excerpt from Walden - Henry David Thoreau](#)
 - [O Captain My Captain - Walt Whitman](#)
 - [O Me! O Life! - Walt Whitman](#)
 - [Song of Myself XVI - Walt Whitman](#)
 - [Song of Myself Section 52 - Walt Whitman](#)

*"But only in their dreams can men be truly free,
'Twas always thus, and always thus will be."*

John Keating



KEY:

1. a. Todd Anderson b. Stephen Meeks c. Charlie Dalton d. Mr. John Keating
e. Mr. Perry f. Dr. Nolan g. Neil Perry h. Knox Overstreet i. Cameron

2. (Suggested answers)

Todd: quiet, nervous, insecure, idealistic

Knox: hard-working, bright, romantic

Neil: confident, popular, hard-working, bright, gifted

Cameron: high-achiever, selfish, ambitious, hard-working

Dr Nolan and Mr Perry: strict, conservative, rigid, authoritative, traditional, controlling, ambitious, traditional

Charlie: rebellious, attention seeker, confident, reckless, ambitious, selfish

Mr Keating: unconventional, gifted, idealistic, romantic

Meeks: hard-working, bright, quiet

3. a. ii, b. ii, c. ii, d. ii, e. iii, f. i, g. iii,

4. (Suggested answers)

a. Neil Perry wants to audition for a play

Charlie Dalton adopts the name Nwanda and rebels against the school in various ways

Knox Overstreet decides to confess his love

b. iii

d. i

e. both can be correct

5. a. T, b. F, c. F, d. F, e. F, f. T, g. F, h. T, i. F

