



The Visitor

Film Study Guide

Director: Tom McCarthy

2007 | Fiction | 104 Minutes | USA | English, French, Arabic, Romanian | PG-13

Synopsis: Walter, a widower college professor, travels to New York City to speak at an academic conference and discovers a swindler has rented his apartment to a young, illegal immigrant couple. The two nearly leave but Walter convinces them to stay, and a friendship develops between the trio as they learn to get by together.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. Which of the characters in the film did you relate to most? Why? In your opinion, who is “the visitor”?
2. In what way is each character “visiting”?
3. What was the most memorable moment in the film? Why?

4. Think of someone in your life who immigrated to this country. Why did they come here? What hardships has s/he faced as an immigrant in the U.S.?
5. What was your impression of the detention center? What did you notice? Is this different from what you expected?
6. What do we as global/American citizens have to gain or lose by providing immigrants and refugees with the right to due process?
7. What are arguments for and against detaining immigrants and refugees in prison-like conditions?
8. Can you think of alternative ways the U.S. government could handle cases like Tarek's?