



## *Something Necessary*

### Film Study Guide

Director: Judy Kibinge

2013 | Fiction | 85 Minutes | Kenya | Swahili | Unrated

<https://iffr.com/en/2013/films/something-necessary>

**Synopsis:** Anne struggles to rebuild her life after Kenya's civil unrest has killed her husband, gravely injured her son, and left her isolated farm in ruins. Joseph, a quiet and troubled young gang member who took part in the countrywide violence, is drawn to Anne and her farm, seemingly in search of connection and redemption. This powerful story of forgiveness and reconciliation presents an intimate look at the aftermath of violence on both perpetrators and victims.

### Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. Research the conflict in Kenya that took place in 2007-2008. What did you know about this prior to researching it and seeing this film? If you knew nothing of this conflict prior to watching *Something Necessary*, do you feel that you gained some understanding of what the Kenyan's suffered during that time? Why or why not?

2. At the very beginning of the film, these words appear on the screen: “The characters in this film are purely fictional. The story is not.” This is not a documentary, but a fictionalized account of real events. Why do you think the filmmaker decided to create fictional characters based on a true story?
3. The theme of faith is explored throughout the film. How do you define faith? How do you think the film defines faith?
4. If you were to experience great tragedy and hardship like Anne, do you think you would still be able to hold onto your faith? Why or why not?
5. At the beginning of the film, we watch Anne as she struggles to pull her wheelchair up a ramp at the hospital. What might this struggle symbolize in terms of her character and the themes of the film?
6. What do you think of Lesit and his wife? What purpose do they serve in the story?
7. By helping Anne rebuild her life and home, Joseph seems to want to make up for what he did and try to be a better person. What does this say about him as a character?
8. Despite Joseph’s efforts to be “good”, he is killed before he can truly start a new life. Do you think his murder is justice for the crimes he committed, regardless of his attempt to “do right”? Did you sympathize with him? Why or why not?
9. The violence that Anne experienced is shown in a dreamy flashback, revealed in small bits throughout the film. Do you think that this technique effectively conveys her story? How did these flashbacks make you feel?
10. The themes of family, love, and loss are ones that we can all relate to, regardless of what our life experiences have been. Did you feel that you could relate to the characters in this film? In what ways did you relate? If you felt that you could not relate, why not?