

**Genre/American/British Literature Film Response: "April Showers"**

Romeo and Juliet                      Blindfolds                      Examples of courage in adversity

"Every road can be repaired."                      Picnic table irony

Smile on face of newsman at triage                      Flashback to exit from bus

"Not your fault – you did really good, son."                      "I need some time alone."

Image of boy with head on desk                      April's phone message

Assault on Nick, Ben's friend                      "Out sick."                      Pushing people away/honest

Jason in front of mirror with hand on heart and bloody clothes on floor

Shaun walks through field on way to crowded parking lot adjacent to school

Fish (Ichthus) and cross on car                      Shaun's cross on car                      White rose on car

Blonde newswoman . . . "vultures over there" . . . honesty and offer of help

Jason wants to know the name of the girl

People bearing crosses, including a Ben Harris cross                      "make a lasting impression"

"a young man who can give people hope"                      "not her" and response of newswoman

"she is with us," "she is in a better place," "what kind of god," "something beyond our understanding" . . . "no higher power"

Stairs                      mirror

Flashback at piano: "uncomplicated the complicated" . . . "is this real, or only a scene" . . . [the response in the PHS audience] . . . What is the relationship between life and art? . . . "You are a coward."

Father in chair and quality of father                      grocery store and readers/storeroom

Light behind officers interviewing Shaun                      Ben "did lights"

"try to put blame on someone not dead"

shortcomings of schools, hedonism, all born of molecules, a time for faith

blonde newswoman: "this is different," doesn't take statement . . . Does she change?

“burn up papers” . . . “not a hero” . . . “I killed them.” . . . “I saved a dead girl.” . . . “How do I deal with something like that?” . . . “Leave me alone.”

At school, constant threats to kill someone . . . just words . . . “Did we miss something?”

“Church” on Nick’s t-shirt                      “None of us fits inside the paradigm anymore.”

Camera pan to top of tree and from top of church                      newsman at funeral

April’s diary                      “In the beginning, there was chaos.”

Judge roles/presentations of male and female teachers.                      “April was *my* best friend.”

“Fear of pain is fear of living.”                      “April lived every day to the fullest.”

Shaun’s bandaged hand on microphone during brief eulogy

“We all knew April.”                      “I thought we had more time.”

Diary placed on casket                      school scene at beginning of movie, church scene at end

Crosses on hill at sunset                      sobbing                      “in memoriam” names

### Questions:

1. Discuss the place where you and the movie met.
2. Discuss the image that most burned itself into your consciousness.
3. Discuss the role of art as you view it in this film.
4. Discuss one of the following motifs in the film: water and rain, darkness and light, mirrors, title, foreshadowing, flashback.
5. Respond to any of the above “film notes.”
6. Discuss any of the attached quotations regarding film . . . as that quotation applies to “April Showers.” Recall T. S. Eliot:

APRIL is the cruellest month, breeding  
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing  
Memory and desire, stirring  
Dull roots with spring rain.  
Winter kept us warm, covering  
Earth in forgetful snow, feeding  
A little life with dried tubers.  
Summer surprised us, coming over the Starnbergersee  
With a shower of rain; we stopped in the colonnade,  
And went on in sunlight, into the Hofgarten,  
And drank coffee, and talked for an hour.

