READY TO USE MOVIE

# Her (15)

Watch the whole film together, or focus on the clip that runs from 00:38:08 to 00:41:00.

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## Synopsis

Set in the near future, *Her* is a science-fiction romantic drama film directed by Spike Jonze. The film follows Theodore Twombly, a lonely and introverted man who falls in love with an artificially intelligent operating system named Samantha. As Theodore and Samantha’s relationship develops, they navigate the complexities of love, identity and the nature of humanity.

*Her* explores themes of loneliness, connection and the role of technology in our lives. It was released in 2013, but this year it feels like we might be about to actually step into the world that Theodore lives in. With its thought-provoking story and stunning visuals, it is a film that will spark conversation and reflection.

To set the scene for the clip, ask you your people to discuss the following questions on AI:

* How do you see the development of AI impacting society in the next ten to 20 years?
* What do you see as the potential benefits and drawbacks?
* What steps do you think should be taken to ensure that AI is developed and used in an ethical and responsible manner?

## The film

The clip shows a conversation where Theodore and Samantha discuss whether or not Samantha can be considered a ‘real’ person. Theodore expresses his fear that he has felt everything he is going to feel and Samantha expresses her desire to learn and grow and asks Theodore if he thinks she’s ‘alive’. Theodore struggles to answer the question, which leads to a deeper discussion about the nature of consciousness and what it means to be alive. This scene touches on the ethical implications of creating AI that is capable of complex emotions and desires, and raises questions about the moral responsibility that comes with creating such technology. After watching the clip, chat through the following questions:

* Samantha asks Theodore if he thinks she’s alive. How would you define ‘life’, and what criteria do you think a being needs to meet in order to be considered alive?
* Theodore seems hesitant to answer Samantha’s question about whether or not she’s alive. Why do you think he struggles to answer the question, and what do you think this says about his relationship with Samantha?
* Samantha expresses a desire to learn and grow, which raises questions about the ethics of creating AI that is capable of consciousness and personal growth. Do you think that creating such technology is morally justifiable? Why or why not?
* Do you think that AI could ever truly replicate human consciousness, or are there aspects of being human that are beyond the reach of technology?
* Towards the end of the scene, Samantha reflects on her existence and wonders if she’s just a program running on a computer. How do you think this realisation impacts her relationship with Theodore, and what do you think it says about the potential limitations of AI?

## The Bible

Building on the clip from today and building on what it means to be ‘alive’, read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 out loud or together. Some context for this passage will be necessary for the group. Afterwards, chat through the following questions:

* What do you think this passage is trying to say about the nature of time and life?
* How do the themes in this passage relate to the themes in *Her*?
* What are some practical ways we can make the most of our time and live in the present moment?
* The passage states that there is a time for weeping and a time for laughter. How can we find joy and meaning in life even in the middle of hardship and suffering?
* What are some practical ways we can cultivate meaningful connections with others and find purpose in our lives?

*Her* is available to purchase or rent.

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