

The Present – Comprehension Questions

Answer these questions on a sheet of paper as you watch the clip for the first time.

Pause the film after 20 seconds.

- What can we tell about the boy from this first 20 seconds? He is a boy that plays video games.
- Why are the blinds closed? So, the room isn't too bright.
- What type of game do you think he is playing? A shooter game.
- What do we think the film will be about? It is called 'The Present.' He is gifted a present.

Pause the film after 45 seconds.

- Do you think the boy often gets presents? Why? No. He was confused when she said it was his.
- Can we tell anything about his character from this section of the film? He was frustrated at his mum.
- What do you think may be in the box? A present.

Watch up to 1m 14s (when the boy throws the puppy on the floor)

- What do we know about the dog? He only has one leg.
- Why do you think the boy has reacted like this? He is disgusted by it.
- Summarise what we know about the boy up to this point. How would we describe him? He is selfish. Since he saw the dog was disabled he no longer thought it was cool.
- Could we describe the boy as selfish? Give a definition of the word selfish, can you think of any other words that mean the same? (synonyms) He only cares about himself (self-centered).
- What do you think will happen next? He will continue playing his game.

Pause at 2m 10s (When the puppy is moving around covered by the box)

- Why do you think the director is trying to show by including this scene and the dog's actions? The dog is trying to have fun, but the boy is disgusted by him.
- How do you think the boy will react when he sees the dog reacting like this? He might join the dog.

Pause the film at 2m 18s after the boy smiles and then checks himself.

- What affect is the puppy having on the boy? He is making him smile.
- Why does he smile and then frown? He is trying not to get distracted.
- Predict what you think will happen next – is your prediction changing? Yes. The boy will play with the dog.

Pause the film at 2m 43s when we see the ball at the boy's 'feet'

- Is the boy's attitude towards the puppy changing? How do we know? Yes. He is no longer ignoring it.
- Can we tell anything more about the boy now? He has realised he might enjoy having the dog.

Pause at 2m 51s when we see the dog 'smile.'

- What was that noise? Cracking.
- What is the boy doing? Standing up.

Watch the film to the end.

- Why did the boy act like he did towards the puppy? He changed his mind when he saw a opportunity for fun.

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- Has your opinion of the boy have changed? Why? Yes. He was not just sitting around because he was grumpy. He had a disability and finally came to realise he could have fun.