**The Matrix**



Computer hacker Thomas Anderson has lived a relatively ordinary life—in what he thinks is the year 1999—until he is contacted by the enigmatic Morpheus who leads him into the real world. In reality, it is 200 years later, and the world

has been laid waste and taken over by advanced artificial intelligence machines. The computers have created a false version of 20thcentury life—the “Matrix”—to keep the human slaves satisfied, while the AI machines draw power from the humans. Anderson, pursued constantly by “Agents” (computers who take on human form and infiltrate the Matrix), is hailed as “The One” who will lead the humans to overthrow the machines and reclaim the Earth.



Keanu Reeves ....Thomas A. Anderson/Neo

Laurence Fishburne .... Morpheus Carrie-

Anne Moss .... Trinity

HugoWeaving ....Agent Smith

Gloria Foster .... Oracle

Joe Pantoliano .... Cypher/Mr. Reagan

Marcus Chong .... Tank

Julian Arahanga .... Apoc

Matt Doran .... Mouse

Belinda Mcclory .... Switch

Ray Anthony Parker .... Dozer

Paul Goddard (I) .... Agent Brown

Robert Taylor (VII) .... Agent Jones

David Aston .... Rhineheart

Marc Gray .... Choi

**Previewing Prompt**

The protagonist in the movie discovers that the reality he knew was not actually reality. He realized that life was not what he thought and that things were not as they seemed. Have you ever experienced a time when you realized something was not what you expected? Explain this situation and how you handled it. Did it make you question other things afterwards? What did you think of the situation?

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**Double Entry Journal**

Below is a double entry journal. In the *left* column, you will describe scenes from the film that seem intriguing, interesting, or relate to your life in some way. In the *right* column, you will write your responses to the scenes you have selected. Your responses might indicate what the scene means, what it reminds you of, what you don't understand, how you feel about it, or any other comments that seem appropriate.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Scenes** | **Responses** |
|  |  |
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Cinematic Techniques

Define and then decide whether the following cinematic techniques were used in this film. Then decide how effective the use (or non-use) of the technique. Cite the scene where the technique occurs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Technique** | **Definition** | **Scene** | **Effectiveness** |
| Voiceover |  |  |  |
| Slow Motion |  |  |  |
| Unusual Camera Angle |  |  |  |
| Close Up |  |  |  |
| Flashback |  |  |  |
| Freeze Frame |  |  |  |

Analysis

1. What is the theme of this film? Support your opinion with scenes from the film.

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2. All of the good guys (Morpheus,Trinty, Neo, etc.) in the movie wear round or oval sunglasses. All of the bad guys (the agents, Cypher) wear square or rectangular sunglasses. Why do you think the director made this choice?

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3. Almost every line spoken by Neo’s “customer” in the beginning of the film (“You’re my savior,” “You don’t exist,” etc.) is foreshadowing. Explain what this means. What do these lines foreshadow?

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4. Neo is an anagram. What is an anagram and of what is Neo an anagram? How does it fit in with the theme of this film?

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5. Neo dies in the film, but is brought back to life. What brings him back to life? Explain.

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**Quotations**

Discuss the following quotations from the movie, “The Matrix”. Use the same guidelines as the quote of the week. What does it mean? How does it relate to the movie? What is your opinion of it?

1. *Morpheus*: There is a difference between knowing the path and walking the path.

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2. *Spoon boy:* Do not try and bend the spoon. That’s impossible. Instead... only try to realize the truth. *Neo*: What truth? *Spoon* *boy*: There is no spoon. *Neo*: There is no spoon? *Spoon boy*: Then you’ll see, that it is not the spoon that bends, it is only yourself.

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3. *Morpheus*: Throughout human history, we have been dependent on machines to survive. Fate, it seems, is not without a sense of irony. (Explain what this means)

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4. *Morpheus*: I’m trying to free your mind, Neo. But I can only show you the door. You’re the one that has to walk through it.

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5*. Agent Smith*: I’d like to share a revelation that I’ve had, during my time here. It came to me when I tried to classify your species. I realized that you’re not actually mammals. Every mammal on this planet instinctively develops a natural equilibrium with the surrounding environment, but you humans do not. You move to an area, and you multiply, and multiply, until every natural resource is consumed. The only way you can survive is to spread to another area. There is another organism on this planet that follows the same pattern. A virus. Human beings are a disease, a cancer of this planet, you are a plague, and we are the cure.

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6. *Trinity*: Please just listen. I know why you’re here, Neo. I know what you’ve been doing... why you hardly sleep, why you live alone, and why night after night, you sit by your computer. You’re looking for him. I know because I was once looking for the same thing. And when he found me, he told me I wasn’t really looking for him. I was looking for an answer. It’s the question that drives us. It’s the question that brought you here. You know the question, just as I did.

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7. Which of the above quotes was your favorite and why? Expand on that quote here:

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The Hero's Journey

(Based on the works of Joseph Campbell, all stories consist of a few common structural elements found in myths,

fairy tales, dreams and movies.)

For each element, describe the scene/s that illustrate the element in the film and explain how this scene illustrates the specific element.

1. *The Ordinary World*: The ordinary, mundane world he/she inhabits in order to create a contrast with the special world.

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2. *The Call to Adventure*: The hero is presented with a problem, challenge, or adventure to

undertake.

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3. *Refusal of the Call (The Reluctant Hero)*: Often at this point the hero balks at the threshold of adventure, refusing the call or expressing reluctance.

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4. *Mentor (The Wise old man or woman)*: Meets a character who prepares the hero to face the unknown.

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5. *Crossing the First Threshold*: The hero finally commits to the adventure and fully enters the Special World.

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6. *Tests, allies and enemies*: The hero encounters new challenges and Tests, makes Allies and Enemies and begins to learn the rules of the Special World.

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7. *Approach to the Inmost Cave*: The hero comes at last to the edge of a dangerous place, where the object of the quest is hidden—the most dangerous spot in the Special World.

When the hero enters this fearful place he will cross the second major threshold. Heroes often pause at the gate to prepare, plan, and outwit the villain's guards. This is the phase of Approach.

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8. *The Supreme Ordeal*: Here the fortunes of the hero hit bottom in a direct confrontation with his greatest fear and he faces the possibility of death.

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9. *Reward (Seizing the Sword)*: The hero now takes possession of the treasure he/she has come seeking, the Reward--sometimes knowledge or experience that can lead to understanding.

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10. *The Road Back*: The hero begins to deal with the consequences of confronting the dark forces of the Supreme Ordeal. This stage marks the decision to return to the Ordinary World.

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11. *Resurrection*: The hero who has been to the realm of the dead must be reborn and cleansed in one last ordeal of death and Resurrection before returning to the Ordinary World of the living. Death and darkness get in one last, desperate shot before being finally defeated.

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12. *Return with the Elixir*: The hero Returns to the Ordinary World, but the journey is meaningless unless she/he brings back some elixir, treasure, or lesson from the Special World. Sometimes its just coming home with a good story to tell. Sometimes the Elixir is treasure won on the quest, but it may be love, freedom, wisdom, or the knowledge that the Special World exists and can be survived.

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**The Matrix as Messiah Movie**

*(Comparison credited to Cecil Copeland)*

Explain how the events in The Matrix might be based on the events in the life of Christ.

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| **The Life of Christ** | **The Matrix** |
| 1. Christ’s Virgin Birth*Matthew 1:24, 25 - And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus* |  |
| 2. The Name*Matthew 1:23 - “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel”, which translated means, “God with us”.* |  |
| 3. The Disciples*Mark 3:14 - And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach.* |  |
| 4. John the Baptist*John 1:29, 30, & 34 - The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me’. And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”* |  |
| 5. Predicted Coming*Isaiah 7:14 - “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”* |  |
| 6. The Brothers*Matthew 4:18-20 - ...He saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” And they immediately left the nets, and followed Him.* |  |
| 7. Judas*Matthew 26:15, 16 - ...and said, “What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?” And they weighed out to him 30 pieces of silver. And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.**Luke 22: 47, 48 - ...and the one called Judas, one of the 12, was preceding them; and he approached Jesus to kiss Him. But Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”* |  |
| 8. Foretelling of Death and Resurrection*Matthew 16:21 - From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.* |  |
| 9. Resurrection*Matthew 12:40 - “...for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”* |  |
| 10. A Greater Power After the Resurrection*Matthew 28:18 - And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”* |  |
| 11. Radiant Presence*Matthew 17:2 - And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light.* |  |
| 12. Ascension*Mark 16:19 - So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.* |  |

Fun Facts

* In the combat training program before [Keanu Reeves](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000206%5C) starts his furious attacks on Morpheus, he rubs his nose with his thumb and finger, a similar mannerism of [Bruce Lee](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000045%5C) before he attacks on his opponents. The move was improvised by Reeves.
* According to weapon provider [John Bowring](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0101447%5C), guns for [Keanu Reeves](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000206%5C) in the lobby sequence and the elevator sequence, were actually plastic lightweight weapons. They made a very faithful cast of MP5K, which weighs about 150-200 grams, so that Keanu could carry them quite easily without worrying about the weight. Heavy versions of the same thing were also made, if they were to fall on the floor.
* [Nicolas Cage](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000115%5C) turned down the part of Neo because of family commitments. Other actors considered for the role included [Tom Cruise](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000129%5C) and [Leonardo DiCaprio](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000138%5C).
* [Will Smith](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000226%5C) was approached to play Neo, but turned down the offer in order to star in [Wild Wild West](file:///C%3A%5Ctitle%5Ctt0120891%5C). He later admitted that, at the time, he was "not mature enough as an actor" and that, if given the role, he "would have messed it up".
* Before filming, the principal actors spent four months with martial arts experts learning the fight moves, from October 1997 to March 1998. The actors had originally thought that it would take just a few weeks.
* [Carrie-Anne Moss](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0005251%5C) twisted her ankle while shooting one of her scenes but decided not to tell anyone until after filming, so they wouldn't re-cast her.
* For the cell phone conversation scene between Neo and Morpheus in the Meta Cortechs office [Keanu Reeves](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000206%5C) actually climbed up the window without a stuntman, which was 34 floors up.
* The filming of the helicopter scene nearly caused the film to be shutdown because they flew the helicopter through restricted Sydney airspace. Laws in the state of New South Wales in Australia were changed to allow the film [The Matrix](file:///C%3A%5Ctitle%5Ctt0133093%5C) to proceed.
* Before his character's final speech at the end, [Keanu Reeves](file:///C%3A%5Cname%5Cnm0000206%5C) never has more than five sentences in a row to speak.
* Numerous sets of identical twins were cast as extras in the "Woman in Red" scene - in which Morpheus takes Neo through a computer simulation of The Matrix - to create the illusion of a repeating program. Example: the tall man with slicked-back hair and sunglasses in the opening shot is seen seconds later as a police officer writing a parking ticket.

Choose one Fun Fact and respond to it.

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