

DEAD POETS SOCIETY – Scenes; Questions

scene 1	Chapel of Welton Academy: Introductory scenes. Film credits. Last preparations for opening ceremony.
Q1	Name the mini-scenes at the beginning of the film before Headmaster Nolan makes his speech.
Q2	What is the function of these numerous short scenes/glimpses?
Q3	What impression do we get of the school, the parents, teachers and students?
Q4	In which order does the procession enter the chapel?
scene 2	Headmaster Nolan's speech with introduction of Keating.
Q1	Characterize Nolan based on his facial expression and on the way he talks.
Q2	Name the "four pillars" of Welton Academy.
scene 3	Outside: Parents say good-bye to their sons.
Q1	What does Nolan say to Todd?
Q2	What does Nolan say to Neil?
scene 4	Neil and other boys in Neil's room.
Q1	Name the "four-pillar-version" of the boys.
scene 5	Mr. Perry in Neil's room: Argument about too many extracurricular activities.
Q1	How does Neil address his father?
Q2	What does this form of address reveal about the father-son relationship?
scene 6	Bells ringing from steeple of school chapel.
Q1	How are scenes 5 and 6 linked (montage)?
scene 7	Countryside: Birds in the sky.
scene 8	Welton Academy: Boys on the staircase.
Q1	What is the link between scenes 7 and 8 (montage)?
scene 9	Inside Welton Academy. Glimpses at classes: Chemistry, Latin and trigonometry.
Q1	Why do the glimpses at different classes in this scene precede the English class in scene 10?
Scene 10	Keating's first English lesson: "Carpe Diem".
Q1	Which name does Keating use for Welton Academy and why does he do so?
Q2	What does Keating whisper when the boys look at old photos in the Honor Room?
Q3	Characterize Keating based on the "carpe diem lesson".
Q4	Based on this lesson, explain his philosophy of life.
scene 11	Students leave class and give their opinion on Mr. Keating.
Q1	How do the boys characterize Keating?
scene 12	Boys in the showers.
scene 13	Todd alone in his room.

scene 14	Dr. Hager takes Knox to the Danburrys.
	How does the film (in a positive sense) foreshadow the love scene that follows?
scene 15	Knox falls in love with Chris who opens the door at the Danburrys.
scene 16	Knox is welcomed by the Danburrys.
Q1	What does Mr. Danburry call Knox?
scene 17	Study hall at Welton Academy: radio experiment. Knox: "I've met the most beautiful girl ..."
scene 18	The Pritchard Poetry lesson.
Q1	How is Cameron characterized through the camera work in this scene?
Q2	What point of view does the camera take before McAllister enters the classroom?
Q3	Comment on Keating's "In my class you will learn to think for yourselves again ...".
Q4	Which camera angle is used in the "I have a little secret for you" scene? Why?
Q5	Which are the "noble pursuits necessary to sustain life" according to Keating? (4 words)
Q6	"These are what we stay alive for." Name the 4 terms.
Q7	Do you agree with Keating's point of view?
Q8	Last close-up in this scene: Who is in the picture? Why?
Scene 19	Saying grace in dinner hall.
Q1	What links scenes 18 and 19 (montage)?
scene 20	Keating and McAllister discuss realism/romanticism at dinner table.
Q1	What is Keating's answer to McAllister's "Show me the heart unfettered by foolish dreams, and I'll show you a happy man."?
Q2	Based on this scene and on scene 18, explain the difference between realism and romanticism as Keating and McAllister see it.
scene 21	Neil Perry finds an old school annual in the library with an article about Keating and the Dead Poets Society.
scene 22	In the courtyard: Boys ask Keating about DPS
Q1	How (position!) does Keating tell Neil about the DPS? On what kind of occasions is this position used by Keating ?
Q2	What were the Dead Poets dedicated to? Quote and name the author.
Q3	There is a close-up of Neil in this scene. What is he thinking?
Q4	What is Neil trying to do at the end of this scene?
scene 23	Study hall: Boys study cave map.
Q1	What links scenes 22 and 23?
scene 24	Dorm hall: Neil invites Todd to join the DPS.
Q1	What kind of scene (technical term)?
scene 25	Pre-bedtime activity in front of dormitory.

scene 26	Neil's room: He finds poetry anthology on his desk.
Q1	What is the title of the anthology?
Q2	How did the anthology get on Neil's desk?
scene 27	The boys run to the cave at night.
Q1	Describe the atmosphere in this scene and list all the devices/means by which this atmosphere is established.
scene 28	In the cave (no. 1): Neil opens the meeting and reconvenes the DPS.
scene 29	Neil tells a spooky story.
scene 30	Cameron tries to tell a joke. Pitts reads a funny poem. Charlie shows pin-up girl and reads poem.
scene 31	Neil reads from "Ulysses" by Tennyson
scene 32	Meeks reads "Then I saw the Congo ..." by Vachel Lindsay, and boys dance and clown to the beat
scene 33	Bell rings and hooded boys run home
scene 34	Back in class, the next day: Keating's lesson on language ("Language was invented to woo women.")
Q1	How does Keating deal with Todd in this scene?
scene 35	Keating imitates Marlon Brando and John Wayne in Shakespeare plays
scene 36	Keating's "point of view lesson". He and boys jump on desk.
Q1	How does the filmmaker/the actor represent Keating in this scene?
Q2	What is it that Keating wants the boys to learn?
Q3	What camera angle is used in this scene and why?
scene 37	Outside activities: rowing, fencing, dancing
Q1	What is the function of the rock'n roll scene on the tower?
scene 38	In their room: Todd tries to write a poem and is interrupted by Neil who shows him a note about "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Q1	What does Neil shout in this scene? What does that indicate?
Q2	What camera angles are used in this scene and why?
scene 39	Todd advises Neil to ask his father's permission and is told by Neil to become active himself
scene 40	Knox goes to town by bicycle
Q1	Describe the atmosphere in this scene. How is it conveyed?
scene 41	The schoolband on their way to the football stadium

scene 42	"High life" in front of the football stadium: - a boy dancing on top of the school bus - cheerleaders dancing - Knox watching from behind sun glasses
scene 43	Knox sees Chris hugging Chat and returns home, disappointed
scene 44	Outside Welton Academy: Keating's "soccer lesson"
scene 45	Boys recite verses while kicking balls
Q1	Write down the verses recited by: 1. Pitts 2. Charlie
scene 46	Neil has got the part of Puck
scene 47	Neil fakes a letter of permission
Q1	Write down the first sentence of the letter!
scene 48	Interlude with bagpipe music
Q1	Describe the atmosphere of this scene.
Q2	What is the function of this scene?
scene 49	Todd alone in his room
Q1	What is Todd doing in this scene without words?
Q2	How are scenes 48 and 49 connected?
scene 50	In English class the next day: Knox reads his love poem to Chris aloud
scene 51	"Mr. Hopkins" reads out his "poem"
Q1	What does Keating say about this "effort"?
scene 52	Todd's "yawp lesson"
Q1	Copy the Walt Whitman verse that Keating writes on the blackboard!
Q2	What kind of camera movement do we find in this scene? Why is it used?
scene 53	The Ode to Joy scene
Q1	Comment on the importance of the soundtrack (music) in this scene.
Q2	Describe the general atmosphere in this scene.
Q3	How is this atmosphere created in the film? Pay special attention to 1. music; 2. sound, other than music; 3. colors; 4. images; 5. camera movement.
Q4	Why is there this kind of atmosphere?
Q5	"Translate" the "film language" of this scene into "written language".
Q6	How long, do you think, is scene 53 in minutes?
scene 54	Cave meeting no. 2: Neil comes with a lamp ("the god of the cave"). Charlie plays the saxophone.

scene 55	Knox calls Chris and is invited to the party
Q1	Knox shouts out two "verbal leitmotifs" of the story. What are they?
Q2	Why does he do so?
scene 56	The marching lesson
Q1	Write down the verse by Robert Frost that is quoted here by Keating.
Q2	What is it that Keating tries to teach the boys in this lesson?
scene 57	McAllister secretly watches the marching lesson
scene 58	Todd shows Neil his unwanted birthday present and throws it away
Q1	Describe the atmosphere at the beginning and at the end of the scene.
Q2	How is this atmosphere created in the film?
Q3	What is the function of this scene in regard to the relationship between Neil and Todd?
scene 59	Cave meeting no. 3: Charlie brings two girls, Tina and Gloria. Charlie announces that "Nuwanda" is his new name.
scene 60	House of the Danburrys: Knox meets Chris at the party. Knox is made to drink whiskey.
scene 61	Back at the cave: Charlie: "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day ..."
Q1	Why does Charlie recite the Shakespeare sonnet?
scene 62	Back at the party: Knox fondles Chris
Q1	Comment on the camera movement.
Q2	What is the function of the close-up of Knox' face?
scene 63	Back at the cave: Charlie informs the others that he has published a letter in the school paper: "Admit girls to Welton!"
scene 64	Welton Academy Chapel: Nolan's speech
Q1	Describe the atmosphere.
scene 65	Charlie's telephone call: "It's God, Mr. Nolan!"
Q1	Comment on the facial expressions of the other DPS boys in this scene.
scene 66	Charlie is corporally punished in Nolan's office
Q1	Find two close-ups in this scene and comment on their function.
scene 67	The other DPS boys are waiting for Charlie in the hall
Q1	What is the message when Charlie says, "The name is Nuwanda!"
Q2	Comment on Charlie's and Neil's facial expression at the end of this scene.
scene 68	In Keating's classroom: Nolan warns him not to use his unorthodox teaching methods
Q1	How does Nolan address Keating here? Why?

scene 69	In the hall: Keating reprimands Charlie
Q1	What does Keating say at the end of this scene? Explain his joke.
scene 70	Neil cycles to the play rehearsal
scene 71	Back at Welton: Neil is visited by his angry father who forbids him to play Puck
Q1	What point-of-view of the camera is used frequently in this scene? Why?
Q2	What does the close-up of Neil's face reveal about his emotions?
Q3	No words are spoken at the end of this scene - what do the pictures tell?
scene 72	In Keating's private room: Neil sees his teacher after the argument with his father. Keating advises Neil to talk to and try to persuade his father.
Q1	What does the camera tell us about Keating's private life?
Q2	What is Keating doing when Neil enters the room?
Q3	How are scenes 71 and 72 connected?
Q4	Compare this "link" with the contents and atmosphere of the two scenes
scene 73	Henley Hall in the snow: Knox brings Chris flowers and recites his love poem
Q1	To what extent does the sound of the school bell influence Knox' action, and what does this tell us about him?
scene 74	A proud Knox "steals" a sandwich from the school kitchen and hurries back to class
scene 75	Neil lies to Keating saying that he has actually talked to his father
scene 76	The boys get ready to go to see the play at Henley Hall
scene 77	Charlie paints a Red Indian warrior symbol for virility on his chest
scene 78	Chris visits Knox at Welton Academy
Q1	What is the technical term in literature for such a scene?
scene 79	Henley Hall: Excerpts from Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"
Q1	What is the play "A Midsummer Night's Dream" about? Do you understand any details from the excerpts shown in the movie?
Q2	Compare the two different lines of action: the play and reality (Mr. Perry's arrival). Collect catchwords: A. The play B. Reality (Mr. Perry)
Q3	Do you see any links between the contents of Neil's monologue "If we shadows have offended ..." and reality?
scene 80	Neil gets a standing ovation, then exits with his father
Q1	What do the DPS boys shout during the standing ovation? Why?
Q2	At the end of the scene, before the shift to the Perrys' house: what is Mr. Keating thinking?
scene 81	At the Perrys' house: Neil and his father come home from Welton Academy and meet Mrs. Perry
Q1	How does the camera characterize Mr. Perry?

scene 82	The Perrys' bedroom: Mrs. Perry starts crying
scene 83	Neil in his own room, stares out of the window, puts on Puck's crown
Q1	Listen to and comment on the sounds and music.
Q2	Comment on the lighting.
Q3	Are there any special film techniques in this scene? What is their function?
Q4	Can you detect any symbols/symbolism in this scene?
scene 84	Neil on his way to and in his father's study
Q1	Comment on the sounds and music in this scene.
Q2	Are there any extreme field sizes? What is their function?
Q3	Comment on the lighting.
scene 85	Parents' bedroom
Q1	Can you detect any ominous/foreshadowing symbol in this scene?
scene 86	Neil's suicide in father's study
Q1	Which special film technique is used in this scene and why?
scene 87	Charlie wakes Todd up "Neil is dead!"
scene 88	Outside, winter scenery: Todd and the other DPS boys after Neil's death
Q1	What is the mood/atmosphere in this scene? How is it conveyed through the film?
scene 89	Keating alone in a classroom, starts crying
Q1	What is the mood/atmosphere in this scene? How is it conveyed through the film?
scene 90	Funeral Service in Welton Chapel
scene 91	Nolan's speech in the chapel: He announces a strict investigation
scene 92	The DPS boys meet secretly in the trunk room. Charlie beats Cameron up: "You are a rat!"
Q1	How does Cameron behave in this scene? Comment on his behavior.
scene 93	Dr. Hager escorts Meeks and later Knox to Nolan's office for the interrogation
scene 94	Todd in Nolan's office, where he meets his parents: He refuses to sign a paper that blames Mr. Keating
Q1	Describe the atmosphere in Nolan's office. How is this atmosphere created in the film?
Q2	Name the two close-ups in this scene and comment on their functions
Q3	How do the different boys respond to the Headmaster's effort to blame Mr. Keating for Neil's death?
scene 95	McAllister and boys in snowy courtyard reciting Latin words. McAllister waves good-bye to Keating.
Q1	Which similar scene is there in the film?

Q2	What does this scene tell us about the relationship between Keating and McAllister? How?
scene 96	Nolan replaces Keating as the English teacher: The Second Pritchard poetry lesson
Q1	Why is the entire scene somehow ironical?
scene 97	Todd steps on his desk shouting "Oh captain, my captain ..."
Q1	Check/analyse the volume of music and speech in scenes 26 and 27 and comment on it.
Q2	Comment on the extreme camera angle in the final scene.
Q3	What does this scene tell us about the impact that Keating had on the boys?
scene 98	Todd and Keating look at each other
Q1	Why are Keating and Todd shown at the very end of the film?