

MILLION DOLLAR BABY – QUESTIONS

RELIGION THROUGH THE ARTS

CAST:

Clint Eastwood – Frankie
Hilary Swank – Maggie
Morgan Freeman - Eddie “Scrap”
Jay Baruchel – Danger
Anthony Mackie - Shawrelle
Mike Colter – Big Willie



1. Frankie Dunn is a “cut man” atoning for past transgressions trying to heal his pain. What does a cut man do? Explain the metaphor.
2. What is Scrap referring to when he says, “Some wounds are too deep and too close to the bone to stop the bleeding”?
3. Why does Frankie keep going to church?
4. Clint Eastwood says that what the audience doesn’t see stirs/teases the emotions. He chose an interesting lighting concept for Million Dollar Baby. Based on what you know about lighting, discuss this lighting concept, and include examples from the movie to support your answer.
5. Eastwood also says that the audience has to be properly motivated to care and continue to watch a film. What motivated you to care and continue to watch Million Dollar Baby? Give examples.
6. Do you think that what Maggie’s father does for Axel and what she asks Frankie to do for her are humane acts? Explain.
7. Why does the priest say: “if you do this thing you’ll be lost, immersed somewhere so deep that you’ll never find yourself again”? What do you think happens to Frankie after the end of the movie?
8. At the start of the film, we see Frankie praying before bed, and he says “You know what I want, no point asking again.” What does Frankie want? Are his prayers answered?
9. What does the film say about loneliness? Are the main characters lonely? What happens when this changes?
10. Describe and explain the relationship between Scrap and Frankie.
11. Scrap says, “If there is a magic in boxing, it is the magic of fighting battles beyond endurance.” Why or how does this become an important part of the film? Explain.
12. Although there are moments of humour and happiness in the film, how would you describe the overall tone of the film? What techniques does Eastwood use to achieve this?
13. *Mo Cuishle* is the nick name Frankie gives Maggie, means pulse of my heart, my darling. What does this tell us about Frankie and how he feels about Maggie.
14. How is Maggie different than the other fighters we encounter? Willy, Shawrelle and Billie “Blue Bear” Osterman. Give examples from their actions in the film.
15. What does Eastwood say about family in this film?
16. Discuss the musical score for the film.