

# Batman (1989) Directed by Tim Burton

## Question Sheet

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1. Tim Burton pays homage to Bob Kane's early renditions of Batman in this film, did you catch it? Do a quick internet search of Kane's early drawings of Batman and compare to images from the film. Where do they appear in the film? Copy, paste and compare!
2. What does an actor's **type** mean? An actor's **type** is a combination of the five criteria found on any breakdown when a role is being cast: sex, age range, physicality (race or the basics: short, tall, thin, heavy, light, dark), job title (mom, lawyer, cop, spy, teen, criminal), [and] personality trait (quirky, serious, intellectual, sexy, loud, innocent). Every actor has a "type", even the most versatile. Examine Burton's casting of **Michael Keaton as Batman** and **Jack Nicholson as the Joker**. It can be said that Keaton was cast against type while Nicholson was cast to type. Explore both actors' filmographies to back up this statement.
3. Refer back to the article on Tim Burton found under "THE DIRECTORS" link at [www.kevinpolidano.com](http://www.kevinpolidano.com) and determine in what ways *Batman* is *Burtonesque*. Don't be so quick to examine the moments with lot's of action – sometimes his artistic style is better seen during the quiet moments or when there is little action.
4. How are the secondary characters depicted in the film? Grissom, Joker's henchmen, Comm. Gordon, Alfred, etc. Why do you think they are depicted in this way?
5. Discuss the use of colour in the film, or the lack there of.
6. How is Gotham City depicted in the film?
7. Yes, the film is dark, but Burton does inject some silliness. Examine one such instance in the film. Does it work? Why or why not?
8. How did Danny Elfman's score enhance the film?
9. Review the film. Provide at least **three reasons** why you did or did not like the film. You can discuss actors, set designs, costuming, lighting, cinematography, etc.
10. **FUN FACT:** Stan Lee didn't start the trend of appearing in feature films with his creations, Batman creator Bob Kane actually cameos as a journalist at the start of the film...did you catch him? He is the one who hands Knox a goofy drawing of Batman.