

CITIZEN KANE (1941) SKELETON NOTES

Before Viewing:

- How do our thoughts, dreams, and actions isolate us from or connect us with others?



List three facts about the writer/director, Orson Wells:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

List three facts about William Hearst:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Define or describe the effect following camera angles:

<p>EXTREME HIGH ANGLE</p> 	<p>EXTREME LOW ANGLE</p> 
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What are flashbacks? Why did Kane use them? What other movies or television shows use this unconventional method of storytelling?

CLAIMS TO TRUTH AND JUSTICE

What do you feel is the role of a journalist?

- Journalists often claim to be able to discover objective truth and portray their institution as dedicated to surveillance.
- The young Charles Foster Kane sternly informs his ex-guardian: “I am the publisher of the *Inquirer*. As such, it is my duty—I’ll let you in on a secret—it is also my pleasure—to see to it that the decent, hard-working people of this community aren’t robbed blind by a pack of money-mad pirates just because they haven’t anybody to look after their interests!”
- Yet movies such as *Citizen Kane* help deconstruct those claims to truth and instead provide a counter argument that things aren’t the way they appear to be.
- Hence, though the young Kane is idealistic when he writes the “declaration of principles” for his first issue: “(1) I will provide the people of this city with a daily newspaper that will tell them all the news honestly, (2) I will also provide them with a fighting and tireless champion of their rights as citizens and human beings,” he stands in the dark, as he reads the declaration, a portent of things to come.

“*Kane* is primarily a study of the private life of a public figure.”

Do you think celebrities and politicians must lead cleaner lives than the rest of us? Why are they judged more harshly?

After Viewing:

How would you describe Kane’s political views as demonstrated in the movie?

What is the significance of the word “Rosebud”?

Why was this movie controversial in 1941, given what you know about politics at that time?

Many filmmakers conclude that *Citizen Kane* is the greatest movie ever made. Why?

