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Reality Bites

Reality Bites is a movie involving four friends that live together in Houston, Texas and their everyday lives, all the way from their struggles to their happiest moments. The three main protagonists are Lelaina Pierce, played by Winona Ryder, Troy Dyer, played by Ethan Hawke, and Michael Grates, played by Ben Stiller. Lelaina throughout the film is a documenturer who is struggling to find a new job after losing her internship at a TV studio, she also struggles romantically and finds herself drawn to two men at the same time. Troy Dyer is Lelaina's best friend who doesn't work and plays in a sort of no name band. From the start of the movie there is a sort of unspoken connection between Troy and Lelaina. They even live together throughout most of the movie because Troy refuses to get a job. He has an outlook on life that is somewhat rebellious and uncontrollable, this causes Troy to say things that are sometimes rude and hurtful to Lelaina in the film, making him somewhat of an antagonist as well as a protagonist. There is also major turmoil between Troy and Michael throughout the entire movie. Troy tends to treat Michael badly and this causes a few big arguments between the three characters in the movie. Michael is introduced later in the movie by a car accident that happens between him and Lelaina, even though Michael was the one who crashed into her, the accident was caused by Lelaina throwing a cigarette into his car at a stop. Michael from the start is a ridiculously nice person who seems to be entranced by Lelaina enough to forgive the whole accident. He even takes her on a date later in the movie. Troy seems to be jealous and skeptical of Michael right from the start, the two are complete opposites, all the way from the way they talk to their clothing.

There are two driving conflicts in the film, one being Lelaina making something of herself as she so desperately strives to do by getting her documentary on screen and finding a job in her industry, and the second being who will she end up with in the end Michael, the nice guy, or Troy, the guy that doesn't

take anything from anyone. The theme of the movie is that life is unpredictable and things aren't going to work out in every way that you want them too. For example, Lelaina ends up with Troy, the guy she realized she wanted from the moment they kissed, but she doesn't get her documentary on screen the way she really wanted it to be, due to editors changing her work.

A lot of this film relates to the script that I would like to create in the sense of their being a love triangle and the characters just trying to make it in this big world of ours. I can specifically take the depth that the characters have in this movie into consideration and form my own characters to have that much depth and backstory. From their hopes and dreams to their family life and current occupation. The personalities of the characters in this movie were very strong as well, I took notice of that and want to give my characters their own identities to where someone could see them on screen and really feel like they've known them for years.