# Assignment 2: Part II: Movie 6: Inception

1. **Who is the protagonist of the story?**

Cobb is a man who knows how to access people’s dreams to extract information from them using chemical substances.

1. **What is the conflict that drives the narrative?**

There are two conflicts that drive this narrative:

* The primary conflict is the one where he failed his mission with Cobol Engineering in trying to get information from a competitor called Sato. Sato turns this around to employ Cobb to plant an idea in the mind of one of his competitor’s son to break up his father’s company by inception. If this is successful, Sato has the influence to get Cobb a pardon so he can go back to live in the U.S and be with his children.
* The secondary internal conflict that drives what Cobb does is the guilt he feels from incepting a thought into his wife’s mind which led to her suicide. Based on this, he was charged with the murder of his wife and skipped out of the country and so he cannot be with his children. His motivation is to get back to his children in the U.S and stop running from the police.

1. **What is the theme of the film?**

The theme explores the idea of dreams versus reality, what is real and what isn’t?

1. **Are the characters relatable? Why and why not?**

The main character, Cobb, is driven by his guilt for planting an idea in his wife’s mind that lead to her committing suicide. He has not been able to let her go until faced with being stuck in limbo with her. The idea of not being able to let go of someone who is no longer there either through a break up, a death, etc, is something that is a definite human condition and entirely relatable.

The rest of the characters form a team to help Cobb succeed in his mission with Sato and show that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts in achieving their goals. This is shown in sports teams, family units, startups, etc and is entirely relatable. Personally, I really enjoy seeing teams work together in movies, there are people who add comedy such as Eames, those who guide the protagonist into the right direction e.g. here it would be Ariadne for Cobb.

1. **What can you take away from this film that might benefit you as you write your story?**

* To ensure that the protagonist experiences both an outer and an inner struggle which are weaved through the story such as with Cobb.
* When working with separate dream levels, lives or times, there needs to be a common story tying all of these together otherwise the story would not be that cohesive or interesting to the audience.
* Visually showing people or things from one dream, life or time in another in a seamless way helps the audience realize that there is a common thread to the story e.g. while Cobb is talking with Fisher in the 2nd level of the dream at the bar, a wine glass breaks and we hear the sound, plus we see Cobb’s kids in the hotel lobby, a seamless crossover of stories, a seamless transition, allows the audience to believe that there is a connection between the dreams.
* Another tool that could be used to tie different dreams, lives or times together is a physical motion e.g. the white van in dream level 1 rolling over and over, effect the fight that Arthur has in the hotel as they go round and round in the hotel hallway.
* The use of a lot of metaphors and symbolism e.g. the idea of a physical safe or lock box or prison facility to hold something valuable, secrets in a dreamscape is really effective, provides the external obstacle while representing the internal mind, in the Dream Level 1, the rain caused people to comment on Yusef not going to the toilet, drinking too much champagne, etc.