Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Film and Literature – Thomas 2015

Film Viewing Note taking Day 1(00:00-29:48)

Title: Smoke Signals Year: 1998 Director: Chris Eyre

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| **Cinematic Elements**  camera framing/movement, lighting, sound, editing, etc. | **Theatrical Elements**  costumes, props, sets, acting choices, etc. |
| **Literary Elements**  characterization, setting, POV (subjective, authorial, neutral), symbol, irony, flashback, theme, mood, tone, etc. | **Personal Response**  As you watch |

Discussion Questions -- answer on a separate sheet of lined paper (or type and print)

1. What is the effect of all of the time shifts in the film? Do we ever feel lost or confused: What does the director do to help us follow?

2. Describe the life depicted on the reservation so far. What do you think are the writer’s and/or director’s feelings about the reservation?

3. How are Victor and Thomas different? How are they similar? What do they each think of Victor’s father?

Film Viewing Note taking Day 2 (29:48-1:00:36)

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| **Cinematic Elements**  camera framing/movement, lighting, sound, editing, etc. | **Theatrical Elements**  costumes, props, sets, acting choices, etc. |
| **Literary Elements**  characterization, setting, POV (subjective, authorial, neutral), symbol, irony, flashback, theme, mood, tone, etc. | **Personal Response**  As you watch |

Discussion Questions -- answer on a separate sheet of lined paper (or type and print)

1. Everyone in the film seems to like to tell and hear stories except Victor. Why do you think this is? Are the stories that Thomas tells the truth or fiction? Does that matter?

2. What does Victor think of as a “real Indian”? Why do they sing “John Wayne’s Teeth”? Why does the song switch from diegetic to nondiegetic, and how is it different when it becomes nondiegetic?

3. Describe Suzy’s character. What purpose is she serving in the story? What is she trying to teach Victor?

Film Viewing Note taking Day 3 (1:00:36-1:23)

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| **Cinematic Elements**  camera framing/movement, lighting, sound, editing, etc. | **Theatrical Elements**  costumes, props, sets, acting choices, etc. |
| **Literary Elements**  characterization, setting, POV (subjective, authorial, neutral), symbol, irony, flashback, theme, mood, tone, etc. | **Personal Response**  As you watch |

Discussion Questions -- answer on a separate sheet of lined paper (or type and print)

1. Think about the lyrics to the song “Father and Farther”. Even though this song was not written specifically for the film, it fits very well. How does it relate to and comment on the events that have been depicted?

2. What is Suzy’s role in this film? Think about her statement that she kept Arnold’s secrets, her attempt to help Victor forgive, and the fact that she burns the trailer down.

3. What do you make of the film ending? How have things changed for Victor? Is anything different for Thomas?

Essay Questions: Choose one of the following to develop into a longer essay. Essays must be typed, edited and proof read. They should reflect the conventions of standard English grammar and essay structure.

Due \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. In Hebrew the name “Thomas” means “good company,” and in Latin “Victor” means “conquering”. How did these two characters play out their own names in this film?

2. The writer originally wanted to have all the basketball scenes played outdoors like the one where Arnold talks to Suzy, but it rained on the days they were supposed to film. Why do you think he wanted the scenes outdoors, and how would that have compared with what is in fact on the screen? Explain.

3. A line of dialogue that was cut from the very end of the film has Thomas asking Victor if he might listen to one of his stories sometime, and Victor says yes. What role do stories and the art of storytelling play in this film? Why are stories important?

4. Reread the stories “Indian Education” and “This is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona” (the story that is the one related most directly to the film). What elements of his stories about reservation life are similar to or different from the film? How have the characters – Thomas in particular – been changed?