

Witness Task Matrix

character	identity	Belonging	Background	themes
Use point of view shots from the film to identify closely with a specific character's experiences. Eg. Samuel's experiences of the city.	Identify the pressures which test the sense of identity for three characters from the film.	What pressures would make an individual decide to abandon a group that has previously been important in their life? Refer to the film to give examples	Compile a list of terms relating to cinematography and their meanings.	Were Rachel and Book wrong to give up their love? What adjustment would they have had to make to join each other's worlds?
Create a range of questions to be used to Interview a major character from the Film. Questions must be designed to illicit information regarding the character's identity and the groups they belong to.	View the presentation on 'Names and Identity in witness ' Research the meaning of two biblical names and two non-biblical names. Find out the meaning of your own name. Find out why you were given your name.	Compile a list of activities, behaviours or actions that signify that characters in the film belong to the same group. Explain the significance of the activities that you have identified.	Compile a list of films that Peter Weir has directed. Is there a common thread that he likes to explore in his material	Explain how the following themes have been used in the film to explore the ideas of identity and belonging. Innocence; Violence; Family; Love; Technology; Wheat/ agriculture
Assume you are a detective for the Philadelphia Police department. Create a dossier on at least two of the Amish community	Symbols: look for symbols that the film maker has used to highlight identity. Compile a list of the symbols and explain what they represent and how they have been used in the film	What do religious groups such as the Amish or Mennonites have in common with people who are members of AFL clubs?	What is the difference between Amish and Mennonite communities? When did Amish and Mennonites come to America? Do we have these communities in Australia?	Identify three examples of 'things are not what they seem' In the film. Relate these examples to the context of identity and belonging
Assume you are a criminal profiler. Develop a profile that could be used to alert the Amish community about a suspected murderer who may be at large in the community	Explain the way that costumes have been used to identify groups in the film.	Research another religious group or cult other than the Amish or Mennonites. What advantages or disadvantages would there be to belonging to such a group?	View the series 'Breaking Amish' write a review of one of the episodes	Identify examples of where the filmmaker has used the contrast between city and country to highlight the ideas of identity and belonging.
John Book character changes through the film. Draw up a before / after table that explains the influences on his character	Explain the music has been used to define aspects of three characters or events in the film	How is John Book's identity as a police officer used to highlight the significance of beliefs to an individual's sense of belonging?	What is the difference between a religion and a cult? Is religion an important part of most people's lives? Why or why not?	

Witness Writing Tasks

Writing in response to <i>Witness</i> : Your responses can be imaginative, expository or persuasive.		
Predict a future for Rachel.	Write about a place where you felt you belonged	Describe the music that you enjoy listening to. Explain why this music is important to you.
It's only when we feel a part of something that we can know who we are	Write a conversation between Elaine and Rachel	Write a persuasive piece that explains why Eli should allow Rachel to get broadband/ foxtel connected to their house.
Without community we are nothing.	Explain to Samuel the benefits of using facebook to keep in touch with family and friend	Write a piece that promotes the Amish way of life to young parents.
We belong when we can love others.	Write a persuasive letter to the editor, arguing that peer groups are more important than family	Write a recount of an occasion where you have been judged by others by how you dressed or acted.
Sometimes the individual must act outside of the community.	Think of the most useful piece of modern technology (to you) and write a persuasive piece about why it should be adopted by Amish Communities.	Write an imaginative piece where a character has stood up for what they thought was right.
We cannot belong if we do not believe in something	Write a newspaper report about when Book responded to the 'icecream' incident	Write an imaginative or expository piece about a character who is isolated through culture, language or religious beliefs
A loss of identity can lead to alienation.	Imagine you are Rachel, threatened with 'shunning'. What would this mean to you? Write a piece that explores the emotions and reactions that might occur.	Write an imaginative or expository piece about someone who needs to struggle to overcome the rules of their community to achieve their dreams
We discover who we are and where we belong by taking risks.	What is the biggest threat to your community?	Write an imaginative or expository piece about visiting an unfamiliar place where you do not know the rules or customs.
To belong is to be happy	Write a series of diary entries from either Eli, Samuel or Danny about the arrival of John Book and the effect that he has on their lives.	What 'weapons' do you have to fight 'evil'?
We are a part of place and place is a part of us	Describe the clothing (including uniform, casual dress and formal clothing) that you wear to Rachel and the importance that these items have on your identity and sense of belonging.	Child hood had gone out of fashion.