



Dances With Wolves Guide

Instructions: As we watch this movie in class this week, think about the following questions and be prepared to write answers for each. I will choose several and you'll have the wonderful opportunity to respond! I know, right?!

NOTE: Movies which are trying to make a point or express a message sometimes do so by using hyperbole (exaggeration used to make a point). This movie does a very nice job of using extreme characters and situations to make its point, but it sometimes sacrifices a balanced reality in order to stay on message. This movie is good historical fiction, but it has a point of view and wants for you to agree with it when you're finished watching.

Questions to ask yourself while viewing this picture:

- What is the primary message of *Dances With Wolves*? How is this message communicated in the film?
- In what three important ways is white society shown to be backwards or savage in the film *Dances With Wolves*? Give specific examples of each.
- What are three specific examples of how Native American society (represented here by the Sioux) is shown to be positive or 'civilized' in the film *Dances With Wolves*?
- In the movie *Dances With Wolves*, why does John Dunbar [Kevin Costner] choose the post he does? What does he want?
- What does the wolf represent in *Dances With Wolves*? Explain why you think so using multiple examples from the movie.
- What were several sources of conflict between whites and Amerindians shown in *Dances With Wolves*? Some are obvious, but others are more subtle. Try to find examples of each.
- Describe the 'government' of the Sioux as portrayed in *Dances With Wolves*, including the various types of leadership roles and the processes by which both individual and group decisions are made.
- What roles or purposes does Stands With A Fist play in the movie *Dances With Wolves*, other than the necessary 'love interest'? What might she represent or what is she used to say?
- How did the U.S. overcome Amerindian resistance to white expansion in the movie *Dances With Wolves*?