

STUDY GUIDE



THE DOG WHO WOULDN'T BE QUIET

A film by ANA KATZ

Argentina / 2020 / 73 min
Spanish with English subtitles



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BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Before watching a film, it is important to know the current events and history of the country that film comes from. Learning about the filmmaker is also a relevant way to gain insight on the context in which the film was produced. You can learn more about Ana Katz at <https://pragda.com/film/the-dog-who-wouldnt-be-quiet/>.

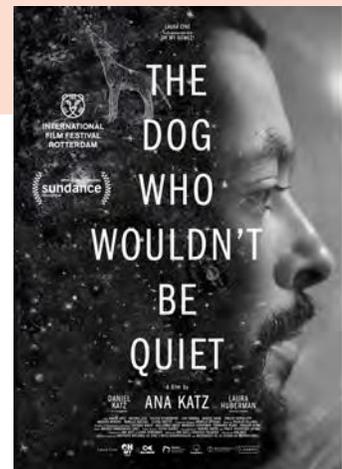
INTRODUCING THE FILM

A **film synopsis** is a piece of text designed to summarize the film's narrative, genre, style, and key participants in a way that appeals to a wide audience. The synopsis is part of the film's marketing process and tends to follow a traditional format.

Read this synopsis for *The Dog Who Wouldn't Be Quiet*:

Sebastian is an ordinary man in his thirties devoted to his loyal dog and working in a slew of temporary jobs. As he moves fitfully through adulthood, he navigates love, loss, and fatherhood -- until the world is rocked by a sudden catastrophe, upending his already turbulent life. Photographed in black-and-white imagery, and awash in ruminative metaphor, writer-director Ana Katz captures Sebastian's midlife coming of age in slices of life both specific and universal as he struggles to adjust to a world that is perpetually changing -- and might be nearing its end.

- ❑ From the film synopsis, can you imagine the genre and tone of the film? From this same text, try to identify the main events of the film's plot and the socio-political context of the film.
- ❑ Do you think that the film will have a political message? Cite specific language from the synopsis to support your answer.
- ❑ How do the trailer, poster, and still images encourage you to watch the film?
- ❑ Viewing the marketing materials alone (i.e. trailer, poster, and still images available at <https://pragda.com/film/the-dog-who-wouldnt-be-quiet/>) without the aid of the synopsis, can you make any assumptions regarding what the film is about?



AFTER WATCHING THE FILM:

NARRATIVE

- ❑ Three songs are used in the film. What are the songs about? What do they represent in the film?
- ❑ The first time we see Sebastián happy is when he is in the vegetable delivery truck with other workers from the co-operative. What does this tell us about him?
- ❑ Do you empathize with Sebastián? Is he a likable character? How does his character develop in the film? Does your perception change over time? Why or why not?
- ❑ How are women portrayed in this film? Are women portrayed differently from men? Analyze three characters in the film and the roles they play.
- ❑ How are men portrayed? Does Sebastien fit the traditional male role? Why or why not?
- ❑ What does the illness in the film represent? Why do you think it affects people standing at a certain height? What do you think about Sebastien's wife's decision to spend their money on a helmet for their child?
- ❑ While working on the farm, we see one worker suddenly fall. Then, a second and third worker fall. Were you prepared for that scene? What thoughts came to your mind?
- ❑ After his dog dies, Sebastián travels back to the city by train. We hear passengers talking about things like intimacy and death. We see a man selling pens and a half-eaten sandwich left on a seat. Reflect on this scene and the different techniques the filmmaker uses to represent Sebastián's mental state.

CINEMATIC TECHNIQUES

- ❑ *The Dog Who Wouldn't be Quiet* can be described as a social science fiction film. Identify elements of this genre that are used in the film and explain how they add to the storytelling.
- ❑ Describe the film's cinematography referencing specific choices in lighting, camera lenses and angles, etc.
- ❑ Why do you think the filmmaker choose to shoot the film in black and white? What effect does it have on the viewer?
- ❑ The camerawork is predominantly handheld. Why do you think the filmmaker shot the film this way? Whose point of view does the camerawork represent? What is the impact of this style on the viewer?
- ❑ The visual tone of the film is low contrast. How does this approach to colors relate to the film's themes? How would the film be different it had high contrast images/ lighting?
- ❑ Reflect on the scene when Sebastián starts working on the farm. The editing oscillates between extreme long shots and extreme closeups. How does this technique impact the viewing? Identify other scenes that use this editing technique.
- ❑ The film uses ambient sound. How does sound contribute to the mood of the film? Illustrate with examples.
- ❑ Non - diegetic sound plays a major role in the film. Give three examples from the film and reflect on the emotional impact it produced on the viewer.
- ❑ Sebastián is fired for bringing his dog to the office. The camera cuts to the dog's point of view when we see the dog sitting next to the window. The dog looks down and then the film cuts to a long shot of the street down below. Identify other scenes in the film that are shot from the dog's point of view.
- ❑ Although the film is a social science fiction film, the acting is realistic. Why do you think the filmmaker chose a realistic style to direct the actors?
- ❑ Throughout the film the filmmaker uses drawings instead of camera images to advance the narrative. Why do you think the filmmaker used this technique? Reflect on the impact of this approach on you as the viewer.
- ❑ Reflect on the ending of the film and the way it is shot.



THEMES

- ❑ Reflect on the title of the film and what the film is about.
- ❑ Think about the relationship between dogs and Sebastián. What is the director trying to convey?
- ❑ Reflect on the mysterious illness in the film and relate it to the Covid 19 pandemic. How does the film make us think about our experience of Covid differently?
- ❑ What do you think the director is trying to say about the nature of capitalist society?
- ❑ How would you describe the tone of the film? Consider its humor and irony.
- ❑ Reflect on themes like the apocalypse, dystopia, and urbanity. How does the film explore these ideas?

