Guides for *What About Bob?*

- ➔ What is the role of comedy in this film? How is it used?
- ➔ Pay attention to first impressions:
  - ◆ Who is Bob?
  - ◆ What is his character?
  - ◆ Who is Dr Leo Marvin?
  - ◆ What is your impression of him? His character?
- ➔ Pay attention to the reality that Dr Marvin has built for himself: what are his plans and expectations?
- ➔ Pay attention to the dynamic of these people: how do they change?
- ➔ Pay attention to the dynamic of the family: family relationship and interactions?
- ➔ Pay attention to the theme of Psychoanalyzation: ego? Who really has the problem?
- ➔ Pay attention to the theme of surprise… How open are the characters to surprise? Change?
- ➔ Pay attention to the theme of openness: the openness of Leo's family vs Leo?
- ➔ Pay attention to Bob's vulnerability: how do people react to it? How does it change people?
- ➔ Pay attention to the irony of Leo's change in behavior…
- ➔ Pay attention to the meaning of "roles": Dr vs patient? The healer vs the healed? Who is the healer?
- ➔ Pay attention to the theme freedom: what does it mean to be free in this film? who is really free?
- ➔ Visual cues: What might these signify?
  - ◆ The use of color in the film at the beginning when we first meet Bob....

- The change in coloring...
- Image of Bob in the hallway of his apartment vs. Bob on vacation
- Bob's childlike reactions in his face and body…
- Leo's reactions to Bob--progression…
- The bomb blowing up the house…

➔ Audio cues:

- Pay attention to the music: what does it connote?
- What is the meaning of these phrases, and how do they change the characters or plot?
  - Leo: "That's the way I planned it."
  - Bob: "If I fake it, then I don't have it."
  - Leo (in dictation): "Need for family connections."
  - Leo: "He committed suicide."
  - Anna: "I thought you were born grown up, daddy."
  - Leo and Bob: "Vacation from my problems."
  - Bob: "I treat people like phones. If I think someone doesn't like me, then I say: this one's temporarily out of order--don't break the connection, just try again later."
  - Bob: "Notice anything different about me?"

➔ Other observations?