Guides for *Dinner and a Movie*

- ➔ Look for these themes…
  - ◆ Transformation
  - ◆ Innocence
  - ◆ Fear and limitations
  - ◆ The true meaning of love

- ➔ Pay attention to the setting and colors in the film...
  - ◆ What kind of colors are used, and how do they make you feel as you watch?
  - ◆ Do you notice any symbolic items (religious or otherwise)?
  - ◆ Other observations?

- ➔ Pay attention to the music. Observations?

- ➔ Think about the characters…
  - ◆ Who are they as persons?
  - ◆ What expectations do you have of them?
  - ◆ What expectations do they have of each other?
  - ◆ How do they change or transform through the film?

- ➔ Write down any phrases that strike you…

Guides for *Vlad Sings the Blues*

- ➔ Pay attention to your expectations and judgements of this man, Vlad...
- ➔ Pay very close attention to the religious images and how they are used in the film… Watch for these:
  - ◆ Use of light and darkness
  - ◆ Our Lady of Guadalupe
  - ◆ “3rd” in the hallway when Vlad says “I have fallen many times”
  - ◆ Stark contrast of the man getting getting checked with the metal detector in front of the large crucifix
- ➔ Pay attention to the music used during the film… What kinds of music, and how does it make you feel as it changes?
- ➔ Pay attention to the pace (speed) of the film…
  - ◆ What pace does the film begin with?
  - ◆ Does it speed up at certain point?
  - ◆ Pay attention to the sequence of Vlad on the subway--how does the pace affect how you feel at that point?
- ➔ Write down anything that strikes you as beautiful or interesting...