Guides for *Groundhog Day*

- ➢ Pay attention to Phil: What type of person is he?
  - His Attitude and cynicism and his use of sarcasm
  - His predictions?
  - The color of his face

- ➢ Pay attention to the character of Rita: What type of person is she?
  - What about her predictions or observations?
  - Notice the color of her face…
  - How is she "lit" and what colors does she wear in contrast to phil?

- ➢ What expectations do you have of Phil at the beginning of the film? How do they change?

- ➢ Pay attention to the ways in which Phil changes...

- ➢ Pay attention to these themes:
  - Sins vs. Virtues
  - What does it mean to be *known*?
  - Transformation and rebirth
  - Winter vs. Spring
  - What does love really mean?
  - The necessity for truth and free will in love

- ➢ Phil determines that he can do "whatever he wants" … What does he choose to do? (Think of this in terms of the seven deadly sins…)

- ➢ What does Phil choose to do after he starts to change?
  (Think about this in terms of the virtues…)

- ➢ Pay attention to how Phil treats people (in particular: the beginning at work; then, when he is "doing whatever he wants"; and then, at the end when he starts to change)

Audio Cues

- ➢ Pay attention to the music: especially when Phil and Rita are together in a scene
- ➢ Pay attention to the following lines and note how they change the plot and the relationships in the story:
  - “I make the weather” --Phil
  - “What the hell?” --Phil
  - “I can do whatever I want” & “I’m not going to play by their rules anymore!” --Phil
  - Poem by Sir Walter Scott --Rita
  - “Is that what love is for you? “You only love yourself” --Rita
  - “You think you know me well, but you don’t know me” --Song
  - “I am an immortal” “I am a jerk” --Phil
  - “Only God can make a tree” --Phil
  - “The first time I saw you, something happened to me” --Phil
  - “Hello Father” --Phil to the homeless man
  - “Today is tomorrow” --Phil
  - “Let’s live here” --Phil

Visual Cues

- ➢ Pay attention to Phil’s eyes… How do they look throughout the film? Do they change?
- ➢ The colors in the film: muted red, blue, and, green--signifying life through a camera (distorted reality) ...Look for proof of this on the playback monitors in the news van…
- ➢ The color will change when Phil realizes he is stuck, and then again when he starts to change himself.
- ➢ Pay attention to the sky and how it changes throughout Phil’s transformation.
- ➢ Shot of the van driving away from the city (home)--look how small it is and how it gets lost.
- ➢ What is the signification of a blizzard?
- ➢ Notice the state of the flowers by the alarm clock.
- ➢ The “threshold” at the end… Signification?
- ➢ Notice the signs:
  - They keep going into the J&M “tip top” cafe
  - Behind Rita at the table: “Happy Groundhog Day, The Spirit”
  - At the party: “Inner Circle Festival Banquet”