

Literature and Film, Level 9 (W232439)

Foster, Claire Keegan

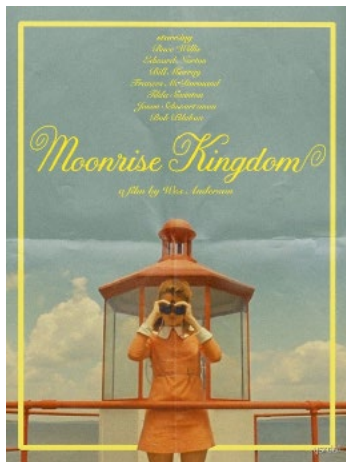
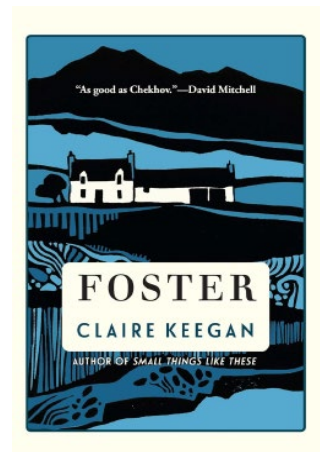
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Welcome to Lit&Film. In this class, we will critically view, consider, and analyze film and visual media through similar critical lenses as applied to works of literature. To prepare for our work together in the fall, we have selected a film to watch and book to read. They have been intentionally paired together around the theme of “coming of age”, the experiences we have growing up that shape who we become as adults. Most importantly, we also hope you enjoy both works.

Read Foster: Claire Keegan, a celebrated Irish writer, pens this concise and artful work concerning one particular summer of great consequence for our adolescent protagonist. Though the novella is subtle and brief, there is remarkable employment of craft and intentionality in the telling of this story. As you read, pay attention to how Keegan skillfully utilizes inference, subtext, and tone in framing this tale.

“An exquisitely balanced book about a child sent to stay with relatives for the summer. Keegan is a devastatingly economic writer: all the silent spaces of the novel will break your heart.”

- Maggie O’Farrell



Watch *Moonrise Kingdom*: If Keegan is a minimalist in approach, filmmaker Wes Anderson approaches matters from the opposite end of the creative spectrum. Considered one of the most consistently unique stylists working in modern cinema, Anderson writes and directs this wonderfully colorful, absurd, and heartfelt strange tale of two young teens rebelling against the forces of adulthood and conformity. Pay particular attention to his use of popular music and any odd or arresting scenes and/or images he uses to construct the plot and create the tone.

“*Moonrise Kingdom* is touching, bittersweet, and very, very funny... [It] captures the texture of childhood summers, the sense of having a limited amount of time in which to do unlimited things.” -

Christopher Orr

In addition to hopefully enjoying both works, take notes regarding similarities and differences you see between both pieces. In the end, write a brief reflection on how both Anderson and Keegan use the setting of summertime as an extended metaphor.

Be prepared for an assessment on both pieces when you first come to class.