

## “Citizen Kane” Movie Questions:

Pick 6 questions to answer

1. Discuss your emotional reactions to the film. At its conclusion, what are you feeling for the main character(s): sympathy, disgust, sorrow, pity, respect, fondness, envy?
2. Thematically, what does the film suggest about materialism, capitalism, love, power, fidelity, family, or friendship?
3. The truth about any man can only be calculated by the sum of everything that has been said about him—Orson Welles. Discuss how Welles portrays this idea in his film “Citizen Kane”.
4. Orson Welles believed that Kane was a very great man and a mediocre individual. Explain.
5. Feature films before Citizen Kane tended to be very straight- forward in their treatment of time. Flash-backs and Flash-forwards were extremely rare. A typical film of the time would have started with a very young Kane and progressed through his life, period by period, until his death. Instead, Welles OPENS with the death of its hero! Why do you think this was done, and what was to be gained by this narrative structure?
6. Do you sense a change in the "mood" of the film as it progresses? Does it become lighter, darker, or stay the same? Explain.
7. Would you say that Kane is a complex character? Does he develop over the course of the film?
8. The plot of Citizen Kane is held together by the search for "Rosebud." Does "Rosebud" symbolize anything, and if so, what? In the end do we know what Rosebud really was?
9. What do you think of Thompson's final speech: "No, Mr. Kane was a man who got everything he wanted and then lost it. Maybe Rosebud was something he couldn't get or something he lost. Anyway, it wouldn't have explained anything. I don't think any word can explain a man's life. No, I guess Rosebud is just a piece in a jigsaw puzzle, a missing piece.”
10. Is Citizen Kane a tragedy? How do you feel about Kane at the end? Was he a great man?
11. Within a decade of its release, “Citizen Kane” was already on most critics' list of greatest films of all time, and it has had a tremendous influence on filmmakers everywhere. What do you think it is about this film that has created this kind of assessment?