



Groundhog Day

A weatherman is reluctantly sent to cover a story about a weather forecasting "rat" (as he calls it). This is his fourth year on the story, and he makes no effort to hide his frustration. On awaking the 'following' day he discovers that it's Groundhog Day again, and again, and again. First he uses this to his advantage, then comes the realization that he is doomed to spend the rest of eternity in the same place, seeing the same people do the same thing EVERY day.

1. The film has a number of sub-phases, give an example of Phil's behavior or personality traits for each;
 - bewilderment;
 - despair;
 - risk-taking and treating life as a game;
 - first breakthrough to intimacy;
 - generosity and the embracing of life;
 - shock at, and refusal to accept, death;
 - acceptance of the circumstances of life and death , and breakthrough to deep compassion (love);
 - being celebrated as a local hero and a second experience of intimacy in which he gets the object of his love.

2. In one scene, which turns out to be central to the movie's theme, he expresses his despair to two working class drinking buddies in a local bar. Discuss the scene in regards to Phil's personality.

3. In desperation, he reveals his plight to the female producer and she stays with him, in his room, through the night. Once again, he wakes up alone in the same day. What do feel Phil learned from this brief experience of intimacy?

4. The encounter with death; an old vagrant dies in his day, how does it effect Phil. Explain.

5. What did Phil mean when stating;
"When Chekhov saw the long winter, he saw a winter bleak and dark and bereft of hope. Yet we know that winter is just another step in the cycle of life. But standing here among the people of Punxsutawney and basking in the of warmth of their hearths and hearts, I couldn't imagine a better fate than a long and lustrous winter."