Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind
Nathaniel Bautista
Valerie Chan
Donald Ishikawa
Albert Lee
Patrick Libunao
Mike Zhuang

Joel and Clementine

Interestingly enough, we never truly see Clementine before her procedure. We only see her through Joel's memories and she is acting as Joel's subconscious. We never truly get to know Clementine, only how Joel portrays her.

Important Scenes

Notice the signs disappearing

Important Scenes

Just like the signs in the previous slides, the minor details disappear first such as book covers and billboard signs.

Important Scenes

This mug was also seen at the beginning when Joel brought in items that reminded him of Clementine.

The detail that disappears here is the picture on the mug.

Important Scenes

This scene is where Mary kisses Dr. Mierzwiaik and reveals that she has been in love with him for a very long time.

Important Scenes

Joel almost misses the train. He rushes there after hearing that it was departing to Montauk.

The past scene refers to when Clementine whispered to Joel, “Meet me in Montauk.”

Subplot

Mary and Dr. Mierzwiaik are later revealed by Mrs. Mierzwiaik to have had a previous affair. This reveals that even though Mary had her memory erased, the emotions she had for Howard could not be removed. Thus acting as a foreshadow
for the rekindling of Joel and Clementine’s relationship.

9  **Subplot**
   ■ After performing the procedure on Clementine, Patrick fell in love with her. He takes advantage of his situation in order to become her boyfriend. As viewers, we understand that he selfishly exploited his position and knowledge.

10  **Hair Colors**
   ■ The movie is played in reverse, following Joel's memory from most recent to oldest of Clementine. Clementine's hair color is the only real way of knowing when the events are occurring. The following colors are used in this movie: Green, red, orange, and blue in that order chronologically.

11  **Hair Color – Green**
   ■ Chronologically, green is the first hair color Clementine has when she and Joel meet. This is the only time that is Clementine is portrayed with this color hair.

12  **Hair Color - Orange**
   ■ Orange is the hair color that Clementine has as their relationship starts to degrade and they begin to fade from each other.

13  **Hair Color - Blue**
   ■ After the operation is finished, Clementine changes her hair color to blue, symbolic for how she is a new person.

14  **Hiding Clementine**
   ■ Joel begins trying to run away with Clementine in his memories to prevent her from being erased.
   ■ He eventually attempts to hide her in memories where she does not belong in order to do this.
   ■ Clementine is the one that gives him the idea to try this, but really it is his own subconscious. (Time – 1:00:00)

15  **Meanings**
   ■ Emotional:
   ■ Referential:
   ■ Explicit:
   ■ Implicit:
   ■ Symptomatic:

16  **Quotes**
“Blessed are the forgetful for they get the better even of their blunders.” (44:00)
Clementine: You know me, I'm impulsive. Joel: That's what I love about you. (59:00)
How happy is the blameless vestal’s lot! The world forgetting, by the world forgot. Eternal sunshine of the spotless mind! Each pray'r accepted, and each wish resign’d…”

Quotes Continued
Joel: Is there any risk of brain damage?
Howard: Well, technically speaking, the operation is brain damage, but it's on a par with a night of heavy drinking. Nothing you'll miss.

Huckleberry Hound
00:07 – After he had the operation, he does not know the song.
1:08:00 – Joel tries to hide Clementine in a memory of him as a child. His mother sings Huckleberry Hound.
1:25:00 – Because Joel took Clementine to that memory, it was also erased and with it, the song.

Range and Depth
Range: The audience knows the same amount of information as the characters in the movie.
One exception: At the end, both Clementine and Joel had their memory erased but the audience only knows this.
Depth: The knowledge we have of this movie is very limited, especially in the beginning where the audience only knows that the movie is about memory. As the movie plays events backwards of Clementine and Joel’s relationship, our knowledge increases and intensifies the suspense.

Themes/Tropes
Humans tend to overlook the good in life for the bad. “Blessed are the forgetful for they get the better even of their blunders” this quote perfectly captures the theme of the movie which is that those who forget the bad in life SHOULD be
happier. Ironically however, the bad in our lives often defines our character and thus we are not the same without them.

21 **Motivation**
- **Characters:**
  - Joel and Clementine
  - Dr. Mierzwiak
  - Mary
  - Patrick

22 **Symbolism**

23 **Connecting the “Dots”**
- Before and during the operation, Joel has two dots on the temples of his head. These help the viewer to know whether or not Joel is in his dreams, or awake. (31:00)
- This changes when Stan erases the dots after the procedure is completed, thus symbolizing the shift from memory to reality. (Joel’s reality is when there are no dots) (1:32:00)

24 **Motifs**
- Clementine’s hair color
- Music (Time – 17:00/53:00/1:43:00)
- The scene on ice
- Dr. Mierzwiak’s office
- The beach in Montauk (Time – 3:00/1:25:00)

25 **Lacuna**
- Lacuna - *n. pl. la·cu·nae (-n ) or la·cu·nas*
  - An empty space or a missing part; a gap
- The symbolic meaning behind this is that the company creates a “empty space” in the minds of their patients.
The END-ing.

- The movie ends with Joel and Clementine running on a snow covered beach (1:43:00)
- The scene of them running in the snow is repeated three times, each time with a shorter screen-time than the last.
- The intervals of the scenes represent how we often remember our journey only briefly. We focus more on where we are rather than how we got there.