Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Class Period:** _____

"LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL"

Directions: *Answer the following questions as you watch the film on a separate piece of paper.*

PART 1

1. What is the setting (year and location)?
2. What seems unusual, right from the beginning, for a film about the holocaust?
3. What does the crowd think Guido is doing when he tries to wave to them to get out of the way of the car?
4. How would you describe Guido's character after his interaction with the young girl and the woman who falls from the barn?
5. Whose house are Guido and his friend, Ferruccio, going to?
6. When Guido and Ferruccio arrive at their destination, what has just happened?
7. How would you describe Guido's uncle?
8. What type of store does Guido want to open in the city?
9. What job does Guido take?
10. What is the answer to the riddle, "The more there is of it the more trouble you have seeing it?"
11. What is wrong with the way Guido is wearing the sash when he impersonates the school inspector?
12. What is ironic about Guido giving a speech on racial superiority?
13. The answer to the riddle, "The more there is of it the more trouble you have seeing it" is "darkness." Explain how this riddle may be a metaphor for the holocaust.

PART 2

14. What is Guido trying to get Dora do to during the opera?
15. How does Guido trick Dora into leaving the opera with him?
16. What causes Guido to crash the car?
17. Uncle Leo says that those responsible for painting his horse were "sending a message." What do you think the message is?
18. What is the answer to the riddle, "If you utter my name, I won't exist anymore?"
19. When the woman at the table talks about the costs of caring for the mentally disabled and handicapped, what does she propose be done with them?
20. What is Dora's reaction to the discussion?
21. What does Dora ask Guido under the table?
22. The woman at the dinner party poses a very disturbing math question involving the money that could be saved by killing "cripples" instead of paying to care for them. What does this say about the economists, politicians, and teachers at that time?

PART 3

23. When Dora and Guido walk out of the greenhouse together calling Joshua's name, about how much time do you think has passed? How do we know?
24. Joshua reads the sign in the bakery window. What does it say?
25. How does Guido respond to Joshua's questions about the signs?
26. Why do you think Guido makes up an answer like that for Joshua?
27. Why do you think Guido acts silly when he sees his son watching him walk down the street with the men from the Prefect's office?
28. Where does Guido tell Joshua they are going when they are in the back of the truck on his birthday?
29. How does Dora respond when she learns Guido and Joshua are on the train?
30. What does Guido tell Joshua the winner of the game gets?
31. Why does Guido volunteer to translate for the guard even though he does not speak German?
32. Dora insists on being put on the train even though she isn't Jewish. Why do you think she does this? Do you agree with her decision? Given the same circumstances, do you think you would act in the same way? Why or why not? What other options do you think she had?

PART 4

33. How does Guido explain to Joshua why the other kids tell him there is no game.
34. What does the woman on the stairs tell Dora happens to old people and children?
35. Why does Joshua now have to hide every day?
36. What is Dora searching for as she and the other woman sort the clothing?
37. Why do you think Guido takes such great risk getting on the loudspeaker?
38. How does Guido "trick" Joshua into staying in the camp?
39. When Joshua makes the mistake of saying "thank you" at dinner, how does Guido keep him from getting caught?
40. What is ironic about Dr. Lessing pleading for help from Guido to solve a riddle?
41. Why does Guido play the record so Dora will hear it?
42. On more than one occasion, Guido takes great risks to send a signal to Dora that he and Joshua are alive. Why do you think Guido risks both his life and Joshua's to signal Dora?
43. Doctor Lessing claims to "like" Guido but does not seem at all aware of the situation Guido is in even though he actively takes a role in deciding who lives and who dies at the camp. The scene at the dinner party where Dr. Lessing pleads with Guido to help him solve the puzzle seems very strange. What do you think the director was trying to say about Germans who were involved in the holocaust?

PART 5

44. Bartolomeo says, “I’ve been hearing machine guns for a couple of hours. I think they are getting rid of the evidence.” What “evidence” is he referring to?
45. Why does Guido yell at the woman to jump out of the truck as soon as it leaves the camp?
46. What does Guido tell Joshua is going on to get him to hide quietly?
47. What does Guido do when Joshua sees him being taken away by the guard so Joshua won’t worry?
48. Some critics have complained that “Life is Beautiful” made the events of the holocaust seem trivial by making jokes. They claimed that the comedy makes people ignore or forget the horror and violence that actually occurred. Do you agree or disagree with this criticism? Do you think comedy makes you less likely to take the events seriously? Why or why not?
49. Using specific details from the film, describe how Guido tries to protect his son both physically and psychologically. Did Guido also try to help his wife survive? How did Guido go about protecting his family? What does this say about Guido’s character?