

The Secret Life Of Walter Mitty Answer Key

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The secret life of Walter Mitty answer key is a phrase that resonates with many who have either read James Thurber's classic short story or watched the film adaptation directed by Ben Stiller. The tale revolves around an ordinary man who escapes his mundane reality through vivid daydreams where he becomes a hero. This article delves into the themes, characters, and interpretations of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," offering insight into its rich narrative and the deeper meanings that can be drawn from it.

Understanding "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" was first published in 1939, capturing the essence of escapism that many individuals experience in their daily lives. Walter Mitty, the protagonist, is a mild-mannered magazine employee whose daydreams transport him to extraordinary adventures, showcasing his desires for bravery, romance, and excitement.

The Plot Summary

The story follows Walter Mitty as he navigates a series of mundane errands while slipping into fantastical daydreams that highlight his heroic aspirations. Here's a brief overview of the plot:

1. Opening Scene: Mitty is driving his wife's car, and he is scolded for not

knowing how to drive properly.

2. First Daydream: He imagines himself as a fearless pilot, bravely navigating a storm.

3. Errands: As he completes his errands, Mitty continues to drift into imaginative scenarios, including being a brilliant surgeon and a daring criminal.

4. Climactic Daydream: In a climactic moment, he envisions himself standing before a firing squad, embodying courage in the face of death.

5. Conclusion: The story ends as Mitty returns to reality, contemplating the contrast between his vibrant fantasies and mundane life.

Main Characters

- Walter Mitty: The protagonist, a dreamer who longs for a life filled with adventure.

- Mrs. Mitty: Walter's practical and somewhat domineering wife, who serves as a reminder of his mundane existence.

- Supporting Characters: Various figures from Mitty's daydreams, such as a fearless pilot, a brilliant surgeon, and a heroic soldier, who embody the qualities he wishes to possess.

Thematic Elements

"The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" is rich with themes that resonate on both personal and societal levels. Here are some of the key themes explored in the story:

Escapism

At its core, the narrative highlights the universal desire to escape from reality. Walter Mitty's daydreams allow him to break free from his dull life, reflecting a common human yearning for adventure and excitement. Escapism serves as a coping mechanism for individuals facing the monotony of daily routines.

Identity and Self-Discovery

Walter's character illustrates the struggle many face in understanding their true selves. His daydreams serve as a contrast to his real identity, revealing the tension between who he is and who he wants to be. This theme encourages readers to reflect on their desires and aspirations.

The Conflict between Fantasy and Reality

The juxtaposition of Mitty's thrilling fantasies with the banality of his actual life underscores the conflict between dreams and reality. The story invites readers to examine how they balance their aspirations with the constraints of everyday life.

The Film Adaptation

In 2013, a film adaptation of "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty" was released, directed by and starring Ben Stiller. This modern rendition expands upon the original story while maintaining its core themes.

Differences from the Short Story

While the film retains the essence of the original narrative, it introduces several key differences:

- Character Development: The film provides more depth to Walter Mitty's character, exploring his background and personal struggles.
- Visual Storytelling: The cinematic portrayal allows for stunning visuals that enhance the escapism theme, taking viewers on breathtaking adventures across various landscapes.
- Plot Expansion: The film introduces new characters and a more complex storyline, including Walter's quest to find a missing photograph, adding a layer of motivation to his adventures.

Key Takeaways from the Film

- Inspiration: The film encourages viewers to step outside their comfort zones and embrace life's adventures.
- Personal Growth: Walter's journey in the film emphasizes the importance of self-discovery and taking risks to achieve one's dreams.
- Visual Appeal: The breathtaking cinematography serves to inspire wanderlust and a desire for exploration.

Learning from Walter Mitty

Walter Mitty's character offers valuable lessons that can be applied in our own lives. Here are some insights drawn from his experiences:

Embrace Your Dreams

Don't shy away from your aspirations. Walter's daydreams serve as a reminder to pursue what truly excites you, whether it be through travel, creativity, or new experiences.

Face Your Fears

Walter's journey illustrates the importance of confronting fears head-on. Taking risks can lead to personal growth and fulfillment, transforming mundane existence into a life filled with adventure.

Live in the Moment

Both the short story and the film emphasize the importance of being present in life. While daydreaming can be a source of comfort, it is essential to engage with the world around you.

Conclusion

The secret life of Walter Mitty answer key encapsulates a rich narrative filled with themes of escapism, identity, and the balance between fantasy and reality. Whether experienced through the original short story or the film adaptation, Walter Mitty's journey resonates with anyone who has ever felt trapped in their routine and yearned for adventure. By embracing our dreams and confronting our fears, we can transform our own lives into something extraordinary. As we reflect on Walter Mitty's story, let it inspire us to seek out our own adventures and live life to the fullest.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theme of 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty'?

The primary theme is the contrast between the mundane reality of life and the exciting, adventurous fantasies that Walter experiences.

How does Walter Mitty's character change throughout the story?

Walter evolves from a timid and indecisive man to someone who embraces

adventure and takes control of his life.

What role do Walter's daydreams play in the narrative?

Walter's daydreams serve as an escape from his dull life, showcasing his desires and aspirations while also highlighting his struggles with reality.

Who is the antagonist in 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty'?

The primary antagonist is Walter's own fears and insecurities, though in the film, there is also a corporate antagonist who presents challenges.

What does Walter Mitty's job at Life magazine symbolize?

Walter's job symbolizes the tension between creativity and conformity, as he works in a position that requires him to suppress his adventurous spirit.

How does the film adaptation differ from the short story?

The film expands on Walter's character and his journey, adding a more elaborate plot with greater emphasis on visual storytelling and adventure.

What is the significance of the photograph that Walter seeks in the film?

The photograph represents not only Walter's quest for purpose but also the idea of capturing life's fleeting moments and the pursuit of authenticity.

How does the setting influence Walter's adventures?

The diverse settings, from New York City to remote locations like Iceland and the Himalayas, enhance Walter's transformation and reflect his inner journey.

What message does 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty' convey about taking risks?

The story conveys that taking risks can lead to personal growth and fulfillment, encouraging viewers to step outside their comfort zones.

What elements of humor are present in Walter Mitty's daydreams?

Walter's daydreams often incorporate absurd and exaggerated scenarios that provide comic relief while also revealing his deeper desires and frustrations.

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