



Name _____

Movie Analysis—“A Shine of Rainbows”

A Shine of Rainbows is a story about the transformational power of love, about finding acceptance, discovering ourselves, and realizing that rainbows are all around us—and within us too.

Introduction: This movie was chosen because it contains many of the topics we’ve been studying and discussing in child development. By preparing ahead of time to know what to watch and listen for, by attentively and silently watching the movie AND by taking careful notes, you will show me what you have learned.

Setting: This movie begins in an orphanage in Ireland but moves to the main character’s home on remote Corrie Island, off the coast of Ireland.

Main Characters:

Tomas: a timid shy orphan who comes to live with Maire and Alec

Maire (Myra) O’Donnell: adoptive mother of Tomas; loving, joyful, warm and caring

Alec O’Donnell: stern husband of Maire

Before you watch the movie...READ carefully all of the questions in this packet.

While you watch the movie...pay close attention and do NOT talk to each other or get answers from one another. Take notes on these forms.

After the movie...you will be given a writing assignment.

A Shine of Rainbows

You may take notes on this page and on additional papers if needed. Attach all notes to your final copy.

1. Describe Tomas' self-concept at the beginning of the movie (at orphanage and initially in Maire's home). Describe Tomas' self-concept at the end of the movie. In your opinion how/why did it change? Use examples from the movie to support your answer.
2. What impact did living in the orphanage have on Tomas? Had he not been removed from the orphanage, what effect(s) might it have had on him and his life?
3. How does Alec feel about Tomas when Maire brings him to their home? Why do you believe Alec treats Tomas the way he does?
4. As Tomas tries to cope with Alec's disappointment with him, he asks Maire why she chose him. What is her response? What does she see in Tomas? What events in her past contribute to the way she sees Tomas?
5. How does the seal pup's plight parallel Tomas's life experience? Why does Tomas relate so much to the seal pup? How does the seal pup help to strengthen Tomas?

