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?
6. What issue(s) does each character personally struggle with over the course of the film?

7. For both Alec and Tomas, the tragedy or crisis of the movie presents a huge obstacle to overcome. What is the obstacle both characters must overcome? How do they each deal with this tragedy? Use examples to support your answers.

8. How do Alec and Tomas help each other to find comfort and resolve in this crisis? Use examples to support your answer.

9. How did living with Alec and Maire change Tomas and help strengthen his confidence? Use examples to support your answer.

10. How is the tagline “Love has many colors” represented throughout the movie?

11. What colors would you associate with Maire, Alec and Tomas? Why? How do the colors you associate with them relate to the emotions they show throughout the movie?