

It had to be Murder and Rear Window

The transition from a piece of literature – a short story or novel – to a motion picture isn't easy or sometimes even recognizable. For your assignment this week, I chose Alfred Hitchcock's Rear Window. The movie itself is beautifully made with a lot of subtle themes or ideas woven through it (you might wanna watch for those). Unlike many other films based on literature, Rear Window's roots are visible. You should be able to pick out similarities between the short story and the film.

Read the story. Watch the movie. Then answer the following:

1. Which version (story or movie) gives more information about the main character?
 - a. What does that version tell you that the other does not?
 - b. Why do you think that choice was made?

2. Watch the cinematic introductions of the two main characters. Analyze those two introductions. What do the introductions immediately tell you about the characters?

3. Are any major characters added or omitted from the movie version?
 - a. Who?
 - b. Why do you think that the character(s) were added?

4. Is there a shift in point of view between the story and film?
 - a. If there is, why do you believe it was changed?
 - b. If there is not, ignore this question. 😊

5. There is a strong theme of voyeurism in the film (if you don't know what that means, look it up).
 - a. Give a few (2-3) examples of how this theme shows up in the *technical* aspects of the film, like mise en scene or camera angle.
 - b. Why is this theme appropriate for a movie (i.e. what does it say about the movie-going experience as a whole)?

BONUS (that means you don't have to answer this)

6. Analyze ONE of the following 2 things (no, you don't get extra points for doing both)
 - a. The view of women and the feminine in the film
 - b. One particular sequence that stood out to you as particularly effective