

**OVERVIEW**

This movie is a light-hearted comedy about two friends who have a long-running feud – John Gustafson (Jack Lemmon) and Max Goldman (Walter Matthau). This feud intensifies when a new neighbor Ariel (Ann-Margret) moves in across the street. Ariel reminds them to live each day to the fullest. In the end, when Gustafson has a heart attack, both realize how valuable their friendship truly is. This is a touching movie that reminds us to appreciate our friends and loved-ones while we can.

**MORAL OF THE STORY**

There are many individuals who care for us as we progress through life. They will not always be around. It is important to recognize their roles and to say thank you before it's too late.

**SELECTED SCENES**

Scene 2-3 (01:47 – 10:35)	9 minutes
Scene 20-23 (1:00:02 – 1:14:33)	14 minutes
Scenes 27-29 (1:21:25 – 1:29:23)	6 minutes
Scenes 31 (1:33:15 – 1:37:10)	<u>4 minutes</u>
Total	33 minutes

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1) As you watch the movie, do you get the feeling that John and Max are friends? Before the heart-attack scene, what clues would lead you to your conclusion?
- 2) Long-term friendships will have many periods of lulls and conflict. The longer you have a friend, the higher the likelihood that she/he will do something to make you mad. Are you the type of person who breaks things off or can you work through difficult moments?
- 3) Much of John and Max's conflict is over a woman (now and in the past). How do you think they handled the situation with Ariel?
- 4) Who are your best three friends and how do you work through conflict, jealousy or anger with them?
- 5) The pivotal moment in the movie is when Max goes to the hospital to visit John after his heart attack. The nurse asks him if he is "family or friend." This helps Max understand that John is his friend and he better start acting like one. What does he do to show his friendship after the heart attack?
- 6) What is your personal opinion about how John and Max constantly call each other names and needle each other?