

"Secondhand Lions" starring Haley Joel Osment, Michael Caine, Robert Duvall, 2003, PG, 109 minutes

Major themes:

- Family relationships
- Honor
- Storytelling
- Heroes
- Acceptance
- Living life to the full
- Manhood
- Legacy

Major characters:

- Garth McCann
- Hub McCann
- Walter Caldwell
- Mae Caldwell
- Jasmine

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- This film is set mostly in Texas from 1914 – 1960.
- The lion had numerous trainers and handlers for safety, but no one expected any trouble from the pig, which attacked Haley Joel Osment during filming.
- The French Foreign Legion is a military service wing of the French Army which was established in 1831. It was created exclusively for foreign nationals who are willing to serve in the French Armed Forces. French officers are in command, and it is also open to French citizens who currently make up approximately one-fourth of the recruits.
- In the fight scene with Robert Duvall, he hit one of the other actors in the face three times due to a miscommunication in which Duvall thought he was a stunt man. The cut used was the final one when the actor's nose finally started to bleed.
- Berkeley Breathed, who is best known as the creator of "*Bloom County*" (1980 – 1989), drew the cartoons on display at Walter's desk. He won the Pulitzer prize for editorial cartooning in 1987.

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Scriptures:

Romans 8:15 – 17 (The Message) – *"This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike 'What's next, Papa?' God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children. And we know we are going to get what's coming to us—an unbelievable inheritance! We go through exactly what Christ goes through. If we go through the hard times with him, then we're certainly going to go through the good times with him!"*

Galatians 4:4 – 7 (NLT) – *"But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, 'Abba, Father.' Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."*

Romans 13:7 (KJV) – *"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."*

Romans 15:7 (NIV) – *"Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."*

John 10:10 (The Message) – *"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."*

1 Corinthians 13:11 – 12 (ESV) – *"When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."*

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Discussion points:

1. What would it look like to "*die with your boots on?*"
2. What are some ways in which we can *really* live (not just exist)?
3. The term "*secondhand*" can have a negative connotation, but "*one man's trash is another man's treasure.*" Who in this film was labeled "*secondhand*" in some way, how were they discovered to be treasures?
4. In what ways do Garth & Hub each contribute to Walter being able to see life's larger possibilities?
5. Discuss what kind of legacy you've received from others. What legacy do you want to leave behind?
6. How did the limited kinds of jobs available to women in the '60s influence Mae's behavior?
7. Walter keeps coming back for more stories from his great-uncles' youth. What is he looking for?