

**“The Princess Bride” starring Cary Elwes, Mandy Patinkin, Robin Wright, 1987, PG, 98 minutes**

### **Major themes:**

- Fairytales
- Love
- Adventure
- Courage
- Honor
- Revenge
- Kisses

### **Major characters:**

- The Grandfather / Narrator
- The Grandson
- Westley / The Man in Black
- The Princess Bride
- Prince Humperdinck
- Inigo Montoya
- Vizzini
- Fezzik
- Count Tyrone Rugen
- The Albino
- The Impressive Clergyman
- Miracle Max & Valerie

## Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

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### Background info:

- This movie is based on a 1973 book of the same name by novelist, playwright, and screenwriter, William Goldman. Goldman has received two Academy Awards for other screenplays (*Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid* and *All the President's Men*).
- In the U.S., this has developed into a cult film, which is “*a film that is known for its dedicated, passionate fan base, an elaborate subculture that engage in repeated viewings, quoting dialogue, and audience participation.*” Feel free to join in for the parts you know!
- This film ranks #88 on the American Film Institute’s list of the top 100 greatest love stories in American cinema.
- The original soundtrack was composed by Mark Knopfler of rock band *Dire Straits* fame.
- Most of the movie was filmed on location in England. The castle used for the film was Haddon Hall, which dates to before 1087. The tapestries in Haddon Hall interiors are original, dating to the late Medieval and Renaissance periods.
- The “*Cliffs of Insanity*” are actually the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, Ireland.
- Locaine powder, purportedly from Australia, is a fictional toxin.
- Cary Elwes and Mandy Patinkin learned to fence, both right- and left-handed, for this film. They did all of their own fencing in the sword fight scene, but used stunt doubles for the somersaults.
- Andre the Giant, who was a professional wrestler, had had major back surgery shortly before filming, so film tricks were used to make it look like he was The stronger than he was at the time. When asked what his favorite thing about making this film was, he stated, “*Nobody looks at me,*” in contrast to being stared at because of his great height (he was 7 feet tall).

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- The characters of Max and Valerie were named after the author's parents.
- The two rival kingdoms in the movie are Florin and Guilder, which are the names of two former Dutch currencies.
- Mandy Patinkin claimed that the only injury he received during the entire filming of this movie was a bruised rib when stifling laughter in his scenes with Billy Crystal.
- In a 2012 interview, Mandy Patinkin said that his most famous line from this film ("*Hello. My name is . . .*") gets quoted back to him by at least two or three strangers every day of his life. Patinkin told the interviewer that he loves hearing the line and he also loves the general fact that he got to be in the movie.

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### Scriptures:

John 15:13 (NIV) – *“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.”*

Proverbs 17:22 (NLT) – *“A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.”*

Proverbs 2:1 – 5 (The Message) – *“Good friend, take to heart what I'm telling you; collect my counsels and guard them with your life. Tune your ears to the world of Wisdom; set your heart on a life of Understanding. That's right—if you make Insight your priority, and won't take no for an answer, Searching for it like a prospector panning for gold, like an adventurer on a treasure hunt, Believe me, before you know it Fear-of-God will be yours; you'll have come upon the Knowledge of God.”*

1 Corinthians 16:13 (NLT) – *“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. And do everything with love.”*

Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) – *“Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”*

Ephesians 6:2 – 3 (NLT) – *“‘Honor your father and mother.’ This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, ‘things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.’”*

Romans 12:17 – 19 (The Message) – *“Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. ‘I'll do the judging,’ says God. ‘I'll take care of it.’”*

Proverbs 24:26 (NLT) – *“An honest answer is like a kiss of friendship.”*

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### Discussion points:

1. Why are fairytales so universally appealing? What makes a fairytale a fairytale? How are they different from fantasies? What would fairytales be like without the element of hope?
2. Discuss possible ways to respond to the R.O.U.S. in our lives 😊
3. Rick Warren says that *“God made us to long for adventure — His adventure.”* What are some of the adventures God calls us to?
4. Courage is defined as *“the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, or pain without fear.”* Where does courage come from? How can we cultivate it?
5. *“Death cannot stop true love.”* Discuss.
6. Who in this movie is searching? What are they searching for?
7. If you have ever quoted *“The Princess Bride,”* share the responses you’ve received. What are some of the ways this movie has impacted our culture?