

“Letters to Juliet” starring Amanda Seyfried, Vanessa Redgrave, Christopher Egan, 2010, PG, 105 minutes

Major themes:

- Letters
- Advice
- Shakespeare
- Romeo & Juliet
- Love
- Relationships
- Opportunities
- Searching
- Following your heart

Major characters:

- Sophie Hall
- Victor
- Claire Wyman
- Charlie
- Lorenzo Bartolini

Movie Nights for Thinkers and Seekers

Background info:

- This film's tagline is "The greatest love story ever told . . . is your own."
- Since the 1930s, thousands of letters addressed to Juliet have arrived in Verona. The letters are read and replied to by local volunteers in the Club di Giulietta (Juliet Club), which is financed by the City of Verona.
- The film was inspired by the 2006 non-fiction book *Letters to Juliet*, by Lise Friedman and Ceil Friedman, which tells the story of these letters and the volunteers who respond to every letter.
- Juliet's Courtyard, at an early 14th-century house at Via Cappello no. 23, is the site of several traditions. Some put small love letters on the walls; others write their name and that of a loved one on a lock and attach it to a large ornamental gate.
- Most of the noodles seen hanging in a kitchen near the beginning of the film are actually rubber bands.
- The famous photograph, *V-J Day in Times Square*, was not a love gesture, as it portrays a U.S. Navy sailor embracing and kissing a total stranger on August 14th, 1945.

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Scriptures:

Proverbs 25:25 (The Message) – *“Like a cool drink of water when you’re worn out and weary is a letter from a long-lost friend.”*

Proverbs 4:10-13 (The Message) – *“Dear friend, take my advice; it will add years to your life. I’m writing out clear directions to Wisdom Way, I’m drawing a map to Righteous Road. I don’t want you ending up in blind alleys, or wasting time making wrong turns. Hold tight to good advice; don’t relax your grip. Guard it well—your life is at stake!”*

Proverbs 6:20-23 (The Message) – *“Good friend, follow your father’s good advice; don’t wander off from your mother’s teachings. Wrap yourself in them from head to foot; wear them like a scarf around your neck. Wherever you walk, they’ll guide you; whenever you rest, they’ll guard you; when you wake up, they’ll tell you what’s next. For sound advice is a beacon, good teaching is a light, moral discipline is a life path.”*

Proverbs 12:15 (The Message) – *“Fools are headstrong and do what they like; wise people take advice.”*

Proverbs 13:10 (NLT) – *“Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise.”*

Proverbs 15:22 (The Message) – *“Refuse good advice and watch your plans fail; take good counsel and watch them succeed.”*

Proverbs 19:20 (ESV) – *“Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life.”*

Mark 4:24-25 (The Message) – *“Listen carefully to what I am saying—and be wary of the shrewd advice that tells you how to get ahead in the world on your own. Giving, not getting, is the way. Generosity begets generosity. Stinginess impoverishes.”*

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Discussion points:

1. Why do you think people write anonymous letters asking for advice?
2. What are some good sources for relationship advice?
3. What advice would you give to someone who asked you if they should follow their heart?
4. In what ways has Shakespeare influenced you in your life?
5. How has the writing of traditional letters largely been replaced in our world today?
6. What did you like best about this film?
7. Who was your favorite character, and why?
8. What kind of person do you think would enjoy this film?