



Courses:	3rd and 4th year ESO
Skill:	FRIENDSHIP
Film:	FINDING FORRESTER
Month:	October



FILM INFO

Title: Finding Forrester

Director: Gus van Sant

Any: 2000

Warning: -

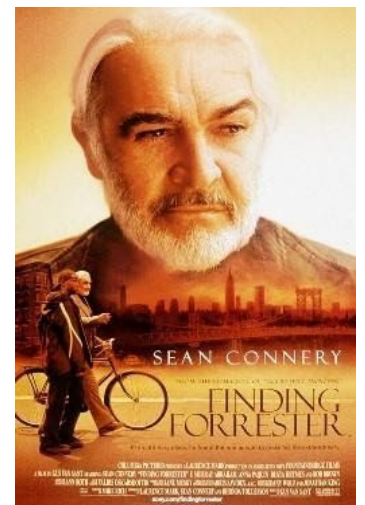
Duration: 136 minutes

Production: USA

Genre: Drama

Music: Joseph Zawinu

Streaming services where available:



SYNOPSIS:

A talented young black man, Jamal, lives in a working-class neighbourhood. He does not like to be seen as being smart, and he earns the respect of his colleagues thanks to his basketball talents. Nor does he shy away from taking part in pranks, like entering the flat of an eccentric old white man - William Forrester (played by Sean Connery), a great novelist, and the author of a single work. Jamal's interest in getting to know him increases and they reach an agreement to help him develop his incipient talent with literature.

Mike Rich's script is measured, with just the right amount of words. The use of powerful images is also appreciated: Sean Connery riding a bicycle says more about his mood than a thousand monologues. The film branches off in various directions, with themes of varying depth; from the scant presence of Jamal's family, his rivalry with a classmate and the budding interracial romance between Jamal (magnificently played by Rob Brown) and Claire (Anna Paquin, the girl from the film "The Piano").

The central issue of the film is the development of one's talent, in the face of holding it back, while waiting for the right moment to bring it out – a moment that never comes.

In this sense, the teacher-disciple relationship between Forrester and Jamal is the core of the story, it is wonderful, as it combines ideas about friendship, loyalty, selfless, and unseen interest in another, effort and the impact of social class to which one belongs.

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

"The key to a woman's heart is an unexpected gift at an unexpected moment."

"Don't think – that comes later. First you have to write with your heart. Rewrite with your head. The first step in writing is to write, not think!"



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“I think that I was writing about how life never works.”
Really, do you need a book to know that?”

“Life is a game that is often neither won nor lost, but that simply one never starts to play.”

“You are too scared to go through this door and do something for someone else.”

QUESTIONS FOR YOUR FILM GROUP

1. Each character in this movie lives in a prison of his own; one lives isolated at home, while for Jamal, the streets of his neighbourhood mark his boundaries. Forrester has turned his back on the world. Jamal lives surrounded by people, but cannot develop his potential. What constraints limit them? Could it be that you too are also imprisoned?
2. The writer’s home is an image of his personality, in the same way that the neighbourhood reflects who Jamal is. The place where we live is often a reflection of our way of being, of our interests and hobbies. Think about your bedroom or your favourite place. What do these places say about you?
3. The friendship between Jamal and Forrester is certainly strange, both mistrust the other because of their prejudices. Despite this, these differences that separate them are those that open up their worlds and achieve their dreams. What benefits can opening ourselves up to new ways of seeing the world have?
4. Forrester says that “life is a game that is often neither won nor lost, but that simply one never starts to play.” What does he mean? Have you begun to play? What have you got to do to get started?