

“Pretty in Pink” Film Discussion

“The teen films of the Eighties were not all about getting slashed or laid. By the mid-’80s, ... Hollywood started to take teenagers and their problems and pressures they faced at school and at home more seriously in a host of teen dramas and comedy-dramas that focused on contemporary teen life. What separates the “teen angst” films of the Eighties from the teen films from all three decades that preceded them is they don’t trivialize the issues that are important to teens. In other words, teen problems were now being treated as real problems.” - *Rebels and Chicks: A History of the Hollywood Teen Movie* (p. 177)

1. Unlike the teen films of previous decades, this film is given credit for also addressing real-world complications and pressures. **What are some of those pressures?**

2. Describe the “richies” and then describe the underclass/sub-culture of the school.

The Richies	The Under-class

3. **How does each social group feel about the other?** Support with a few examples from the film.
 - a. Consider how Andie feels when Blane takes her to Steff’s party. How does that compare to when Andie takes Blane to the club? What do you think the movie is trying to say about social class with these differences?

4. Support the following statement with evidence from the film: “Throughout *Pretty in Pink*, characters dismantle the expectations and perceptions associated with class.”

5. John Hughes wanted Andie to get together with Duckie and that was how it was originally filmed. Test audiences, however, said they wanted to see Andie wind up with Blaine so the studio forced him to reshoot the ending and have Andie wind up with Blaine. Why do you think this was the case? How does the reshot ending fit with what we know about Americans’ values in the ‘80s?