

## Fargo Discussion Points

1. How is the storyline enhanced by having it take place in Minnesota?
2. Consider the music in the opening scene of the film. How would you describe it? Why do you think this kind of music was chosen for the opening scene?
3. The graphic at the beginning of the film says the film is taken from a true story. Actually it is not. In point of fact, several of the scenes shown are taken from actual events, but all the characters are fictitious. Why might the Coen Brothers say this a true story?
4. What are the problems Jerry Lundegaard has gotten himself into? How does he hope to get out of them? Let's describe the plan and how Jerry hopes it will work out.
5. What is the significance of Brainard being the home of Paul Bunyan? How does the statue serve as a symbol in the film?
6. Thirty minutes go by before we're introduced to Marge. How would you describe her character?
7. Marge and Norm are one couple in the film. Carl Showalter and Gaear Grimsrud are another couple. Do you

think they are meant to counterbalance each other in the film?

8. What's the significance of Marge meeting Mike at the bar? Why was this scene included?
9. The Coen Brothers typically drop lines into their scripts that convey much more information than the mere words themselves. Three of these lines are "Jean and Scotty never have to worry", "Unguent", and "I want to be in full compliance." What are the circumstances of each of these lines and what do they convey?
10. After Jerry's meeting with his father-in-law and the lawyer he dejectedly leaves the office building and we see him crossing the parking lot. He gets in his car and finds the windshield totally obscured with ice. While that makes sense from a narrative point of view, what else is symbolized here.
11. Despite his affable demeanor, how does the film show Jerry as a ticking time bomb?
12. There are several "mirror" scenes in the film where the set up or action in earlier scenes are "mirrored" in later scenes. Some examples include escaping out a bathroom window, shooting someone, cars coming out of the snowy distance and bed scenes. Can you identify these scenes?

