

Discussion Topics for Road to Perdition

1. Basically this film would be defined as a crime or gangster story. While that is the most obvious definition, it also has several plot elements that come from other time honored film genres. What are some of these other genres?
2. The lighting and the color palette contribute greatly to the look of the film. Describe the look of the film and how does this look enhance the narrative?
3. Family and loyalty to family are both strong themes in the film. Is there more than one kind of family portrayed? How does the film depict family?
4. Another strong theme is the depiction of the father/son relationship. There are several different father/son pairings shown in the film.

What are they? What is the role of fathers and sons in these different relationships?

5. What did you think of the character McGuire, played by Jude Law? How is he portrayed? What techniques does the film maker use to define this character?

6. What kind of a man is Michael Sullivan? What techniques are employed to define his character for the viewer? What effect does the casting of Tom Hanks have on our opinion of the character?

7. Is Michael Sullivan redeemed in your eyes at the end of the film?