1. The film features a lot of close ups; of faces or pairs of faces or groups of faces. There are a lot of tight shots of kitchen utensils or ingredients. The interiors are also filmed to appear tight or cramped. What do these camera techniques bring to the narrative?

2. What do you think the significance of their first daughter being names April? Also what is the significance of the mother being named Joy?

3. April and Bobby are portrayed as having a warm and loving relationship with each other. What scenes do you think show this most clearly?

4. April clearly has a troubled, baggage laden history with her mother. This is subtly alluded to early in the film as April starts to prepare. How does the filmmaker subtlety show this?

5. There is a lot of scenes of people knocking on doors in the film. What did you draw from this?

6. I felt this was a heavily (in a good sense) humanistic film. Do you agree?

7. Each of the three children are trying to define their roles in the family. What actions show us their attempts to do this?

8. The film is refreshing in that it presents positive characters who are members of inner city minorities. The only scene of violence is downplayed. How does the film portray that scene in trying to deemphasize its significance?

9. How do you react to Patricia Clarkson’s character, the mother Joy?
10. The film ends with scenes with no dialog and photos of the gathering. How does this tie in with the narrative of the film and what Oliver Platt’s character is trying to do?