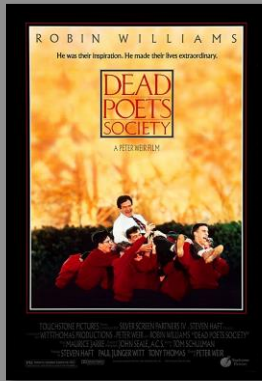


THE CAREER AUTHOR



Bonus Episode 9 // *Dead Poets Society* (1989) // 128 minutes



English teacher John Keating inspires his students to look at poetry with a different perspective of authentic knowledge and feelings.

Genre: Comedy, Drama

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0097165/>

Internal: WORLDVIEW – Maturation
External: SOCIETY – Domestic?

Progressive Complication (1:22:00) - Neal's father comes to school to confront him about the forged letter (and Neal's decision to join the theater troupe).

Crisis (1:23:00) - Does Neal quit his true passion or disobey his father?
BEST BAD CHOICE

Inciting Incident (13:18) - The students are introduced to John Keating and his unorthodox style.

Climax (1:35:00) - Neal performs in front of his father and then goes home to commit suicide.

Resolution (2:02:00) - The boys honor Neal and Keating by standing on their desks.

“Carpe Diem.”

THE THREE ACTS

Act I

Neal and his friends begin a new school year but with a new and different kind of teacher, John Keating.

Act II - Approx. 23% mark (00:30:00)

The boys start the Dead Poets Society and they try to be individuals within a tightly controlled environment.

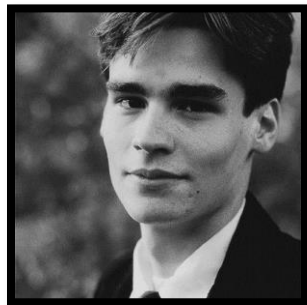
Act III - Approx. 64% mark (01:23:00)

The Dead Poets Society and Keating's tenure at the school become frayed resulting in physical and symbolic death.

The Protagonist –
Neal

Wants to?
Act.

Needs?
To live his own life instead of trying to meet his parents' expectations.



The Antagonist – Mr.
Nolan

Wants to?
Maintain order.

Needs?
To force the boys into conformity to preserve the institution.



CHARACTER ARCHETYPES

**The
Mentor -
Mr. Keating**

**Threshold
Guardian
- Todd**

**Herald -
Cameron**

**Shape
Shifter -
Charlie,
Cameron**

**Shadow -
Mr. Nolan,
Neal's
father**

**The Ally -
Todd**

**The
Trickster -
Steven
(Meeks)**

*More on Campbell's archetypes - <https://mythcreants.com/blog/the-eight-character-archetypes-of-the-heros-journey/>

DOES THE MOVIE WORK? WHY OR WHY NOT?

The Career Authors believe *Dead Poets Society* works because it utilizes classic story structure but with universal themes and unexpected situations which keep the view engaged. Any author considering writing in young adult or coming-of-age should use this movie as a blueprint for doing it well to create timeless art.

TheCareerAuthor.com