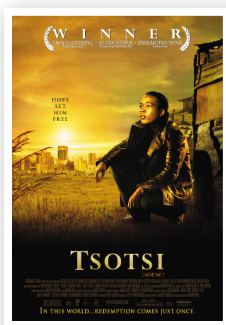




TSOTSI



Synopsis

A young gang leader steals a woman's car—unaware, in his panic, that her baby is in the back seat. Orphaned at an early age and forced to survive by his wits alone, having to care for the infant taps into reservoirs of humanity that surprise even Tsotsi.

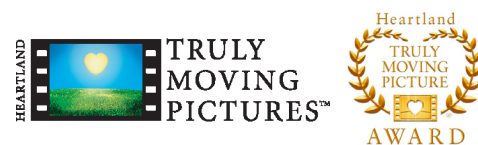
Discussion Questions

- Through Tsotsi's flashbacks we see memories of his parents. Based on this brief glimpse of Tsotsi's childhood, why do you believe he became the person he ultimately grew to be?
- The members of Tsotsi's gang reacted differently to murdering the man on the subway. Why do you think individuals who obviously have such different values set for human life spend their time together?
- After the gang's first murder, Brooklyn asks Tsoti if he knows what decency is and whether he has any decency in him. Why do you believe Brooklyn's questioning Tsotsi's decency makes Tsotsi react so violently?
- We see how dramatically finding the infant impacts Tsotsi. Have you experienced how dramatically a child can change not only your life, but also your beliefs? How?
- Tsotsi's relationship with the woman he forces to feed the infant gradually evolves from threatening to somewhat appreciative, although Tsotsi never truly thanks the woman. In what way does their relationship change that lets you know Tsotsi appreciates her?
- What is the significance of Tsotsi telling Miriam that the infant's name is David?



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Activity

- We see Tsotsi examining the mobiles that Miriam, the woman who feeds the infant, makes. One she makes is rusty, which she made when she was sad. The other is vibrant and beautiful, made from broken glass when she was happy. With limited resources Miriam still managed to make remarkable art using scraps of recycled materials. Using Miriam's mobiles as inspiration, reuse waste to create something beautiful.



Get Involved

- Tsotsi is an example of an individual who became lost with no one to guide his way. Think of ways you can become involved in the lives of those who don't have good influences to help them along the way. Becoming a mentor or peer counselor are both ideas to consider.
- *Tsotsi* doesn't address how Tsotsi became an orphan, but it is implied that his mother died from AIDS. South Africa has one of the highest global rates of people living with AIDS. The AIDS epidemic in South Africa impacts families financially and also has created what some studies estimate as half the country's orphans (Impact on Children and Families, www.avert.org/aidssouthafrica.htm).
- Learn more about what you can do to help the AIDS epidemic in South Africa by visiting the sites below.
 - www.avert.org/aidssouthafrica.htm
 - www.aids.org.za/index.htm
 - www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/south_africa.asp



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