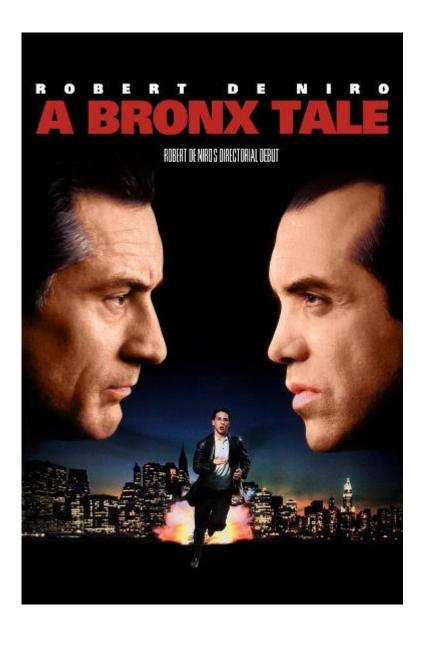


What questions does the movie poster provoke?

What is important about the two faces?

The kid in the center? What's behind the kid?



- Directorial debut of Robert DeNiro
- Follows a young Italian-American teenager in The Bronx, New York
- As his path in life is guided by two father figures, played by De Niro as his biological father and Chazz Palminteri as a local mafia boss.
- Written by Palminteri, based partially upon his childhood.

# A BRONX TALE What is Memoir?

- Memoirs can be any kind of life experience: humorous, lighthearted, or even historical record, or domestic life.
- Tells a story *from* life, not the *whole* life itself (as a biography does).
- Muses on the events of that story from a current point of view -- essentially, trying to unravel what it all means.
- And ultimately it may not have the answer to the meaning – but it must be trying to find out and share the intellectual and emotional quest for answers.

## A BRONX TALE

## What is Memoir?

- Still has a **theme** or set of themes that bind the work together
- **Uses elements of fiction**: re-creating believable dialogue, building tension, revealing facts in a chosen story structure that doesn't have to be chronological.
- Engaging narrator voice the storyteller has to be good at it, adept, to keep the reader engaged.
- Can every memoirist remember exact dialogue that took place at breakfast forty years ago? They "construe" dialogue, change the name and hair color of a character to protect the privacy of the living, or even reorder events to make the story work better.
- BUT THE AUTHOR STANDS BEHIND THE STORY AS TRUE AND DOES NOT ABUSE AUDIENCE'S TRUST.

#### 13 Life Lessons

### "IT DON'T TAKE MUCH STRENGTH TO PULL A TRIGGER.



But try and get up every morning day after day, and work for a living. Let's see him try that. Then we'll see who the real tough guy is. The working man's the tough guy."

**DIRECTIONS:** A Bronx Tale has become a classic for its memorable storyline, for how <u>Palminteri</u> came to write it, for its unique view of the world from one neighborhood, and for the **LIFE LESSONS** many viewers have agreed it teaches in a non-preachy way. Some lessons, traditional – some, not so much. Can you identify who spoke/taught each lesson? What is the gist or force of each lesson?

Day	-	Day 2	Day 3
	Lesson 1:	The importance of family.	
	Lesson 2:	It's better to be feared than loved.	
	Lesson 3:	It costs \$20 to get rid of a problem.	
	Lesson 4:	Availability. Sonny chooses to live in	his neighborhood because
	Lesson 5:	Sinatra is a great singer.	
	Lesson 6:	"Never rat on no one."	
	Lesson 7:	Sometimes you do good things for bac	l people.
	Lesson 8:	There's nothing sadder than wasted ta	lent.
	Lesson 9:	The "Mario" test.	
	Lesson 10	Nobody cares.	
	Lesson 11	Never underestimate your enemy.	
	Lesson 12	Guns don't make you tough.	
	Lesson 13	The "door" test.	

- 1. Three days of viewing
- 2. Track these
  "lessons" each day.
  Observe which turn
  into THEMES

#### THE GOAL?

- 3. Be able to explain how a theme was
  - introduced,
  - developed
  - resolved