



**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 Palminteri 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 1

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 bad people.

Lesson 8: There's nothing sadder than wasted talent.

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.

### Day 2

### Day 3

**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**