

# **Lost in Translation Film Summary**

## **Lost in Translation by Sofia Coppola**

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## Context

*Lost in Translation* is the story of two strangers who meet in Tokyo on a trip. They are both experiencing problems in their marriages and are desperately trying to make sense of their lives as they try to find their way through the city while knowing little to no Japanese.

When Bob Harris and Charlotte meet, they are both lost, lonely and confused. Through their experiences together, they both learn to have fun again. They also spend their time trying to work through difficult issues in their lives. Eventually, Bob and Charlotte become extremely close and hate to lose each other as they leave to return home. For a time, they consider staying together, but Bob and Charlotte both realize that they must return home and take care of their own lives.

The first American woman ever nominated for the best director Academy Award, Sofia Coppola is famous for her style and expertise. That same year she won the Oscar for screenwriting, making it a family tradition. Coppola has also directed such popular films as *Lick the Star* (1998) and *The Virgin Suicides* (1999). Her efforts with *Lost in Translation* made it a well-received and extremely popular film when it was released.

Bill Murray, a longtime Hollywood actor, takes on the role of a washed out Hollywood actor, Bob Harris, in *Lost in Translation*. Bill Murray began his career as did so many others, on *Saturday Night Live*. This hilarious SNL alumnus got his big break with a roll in *Meatballs* (1979). After performing in *Caddyshack* (1980) and *Stripes* (1981), Murray was swept to the top with his starring role in *Ghostbusters* (1984). Since then he has adlibbed a role in *Tootsie* (1982), played a dentist's patient in *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986), and a man stuck in time in *Groundhog Day* (1993).

Scarlett Johansson plays the lovely Charlotte in this film. Scarlett was first noticed primarily for her role in *The Horse Whisperer* (1998), although she had performed exceptionally in such films as *North* (1994) and *Manny & Lo* (1996). She has gone on to star in such films as *The Girl with the Pearl Earring* (2003), *The Perfect Score* (2004) and *A Love Song for Bobby Long* (2004).

*Lost in Translation* won a single Oscar for Best Writing, Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen for Sofia Coppola. It was also nominated for three other awards: Best Actor in a Leading Role for Bill Murray; Best Director for Sofia Coppola; and Best Picture for Ross Katz and Sofia Coppola.

The Golden Globes also nominated *Lost in Translation* for Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for Scarlett Johansson and Best Director - Motion Picture for Sofia Coppola. The film also won Golden Globes in these areas: Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy for Bill Murray; Best Screenplay - Motion Picture for Sofia Coppola; and Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy.

The BAFTA Awards were also extremely kind to the film, nominating it for the Anthony Asquith Award for Film Music for Kevin Shields and Brian Reitzell; Best Cinematography for Lance Acord; Best Screenplay - Original for Sofia Coppola; and the David Lean Award for Direction for Sofia Coppola. The film also won three BAFTA Awards: Best Editing for Sarah Flack; Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for Bill Murray; and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role for Scarlett Johansson.



## Summary and Analysis

*Lost in Translation* is the story of two wanderers meeting to regain purpose in their lives. It begins in Tokyo's International Airport as Bob Harris, a past-his-prime movie star, leaves and goes to his hotel. He arrives at the hotel to a big welcome and receives a note from his wife that he forgot his son's birthday.

In Bob's room, he sits quietly on his bed and watches television before going out for dinner. A couple of guys recognize Bob, and they begin talking to him. In his bed, Bob lays there exhausted until his fax machine begins printing, and he receives a message asking for help putting together a bookcase.

In the next room, two newlyweds enjoy themselves. The girl, Charlotte, is awake, so she gets up. Bob wakes up soon after and showers. Charlotte's husband gets a call and goes to work while Charlotte looks out on the city. Bob notices her the next morning in the elevator.

Bob begins taping his commercial. He is given directions through the use of a translator. They keep asking him to repeat his role with more intensity, and the director gets increasingly frustrated.

Elsewhere, Charlotte tries to figure out the subway system. She later calls her friend Lauren and tells her about the chanting monks she saw earlier. Charlotte is confused about her marriage, but then her friend gets distracted. Charlotte is on her own again, crying. Charlotte simply sits and cries alone for a while. She is frustrated that she can't even get the attention of her best friend when she so desperately needs help. She is tired of her husband being gone all the time. He's not even there enough for her to voice her feelings.

Later, Charlotte tries to decorate their room so it will be nicer. When her husband gets home, he tells her about the way his job is going. She tries on the scarf she's been working on, and she asks for his opinion. He tells her to stop smoking, but she tells him she'll do it later. She enjoys smoking.

In Bob's room, he watches television but is not impressed. Finally, he sees himself on a commercial. He is not impressed with what he sees and decides that he's seen enough television for the night. There's a knock at the door, and a woman offers Bob a massage. She has been sent to make his fantasies come true. She keeps saying, "lip my stockings," instead of "rip my stockings." She then falls onto the floor, calling for help. Bob tries to help her off the floor, but she won't let go of him.

The next day, Bob eats alone while Charlotte walks on a busy street alone. They both seem to spend more time alone than they do with other people, and they also both seem to be hurting inside. Bob is at a photo shoot for a whiskey company, and they keep asking him to be more mysterious as he drinks the whiskey, which is actually iced tea. They have a little trouble communicating because the director's English is very hard



to understand. They take dozens of pictures, and finally the shoot is complete. That night, Bob drinks at the bar, where he sees Charlotte again. He doesn't talk to her but goes up to his room instead to work out. The machine gets faster and faster until he has to stop and rest.

The next morning, Bob goes out to work. John and Charlotte then see a beautiful movie star. Charlotte obviously seems intimidated, and John takes a while before he introduces her. The girl asks John to be the only one who photographs her, and he begins to laugh nervously. They agree to go out for a drink sometime. During this exchange, Charlotte has stood by uncomfortably. Compared to the girl, Kelly, Charlotte is not very good looking, and she feels threatened. After Kelly leaves, Charlotte makes fun of her, and John begins to defend Kelly. Charlotte simply says goodbye for the day and returns to their room.

During the day, Charlotte listens to the Inner Map Theory of how the soul works and how people gain purpose. Later, Charlotte hears the same girl, Kelly, giving interviews again. Kelly thinks there is hope in reincarnation. She is obviously an airhead, and Charlotte is annoyed with her. Back in the room again, Charlotte wakes up and watches television. Bob is sitting downstairs at the bar and talking to other people when Charlotte comes down. Bob does his commercial to help her remember him, and Charlotte orders.

Charlotte begins talking to Bob about why he is in Tokyo. She tells him that she's here with her husband, who is a photographer, and that they've been married two years. He's been married for twenty-five years, and she's impressed. Charlotte shares that she doesn't have a job yet. She graduated with a degree in philosophy the year before. They both wish that they could sleep. Not only are they dissatisfied with their lives, but they also have trouble getting away from them even at night.

Later, Bob watches as some Japanese men do water aerobics. Charlotte then goes and watches people play video games. That night John has to go down for drinks with Kelly to talk about photos. Charlotte decides to go, and John seems reluctant to have her come with them. Downstairs, Kelly talks about how everyone thinks she's anorexic. She's not, but she says her dad is. He was tortured about food in the war, and they would throw up after every meal. Another guy talks about his music. Finally, Charlotte gets bored with the shallow talk and goes to talk to Bob. He seems to be more on her level. He admits that he's looking for an accomplice to get out of that place. She agrees and says she'll go pack.

The next day, John is excited about some of the things the label gave him. John has to leave, and he tells her she that doesn't have to stay at the hotel but that he thinks she'll have a much better time there.

Charlotte meets Bob downstairs at the sauna and invites him to come out with some of her friends. He opens a FedEx box and finds a package full of decorating samples that his wife wants him to choose between for his study.



Bob meets Charlotte later. He notices her Soul Search CD, and he says that he has the same one. They get ready to go and head out on the town. They meet up with several of John and Charlotte's friends. They all have a great time during the evening, and they end up running down the street at one point as they hear gunfire. They also run through a casino and come out safely on another road.

After meeting back up with Charlotte's friends, the group leaves the street. They all go to Charlie's place to hang out and meet some other people. They dance, talk and drink. Later, Charlotte and Bob sing a duo, but they aren't great. Then, Bob and Charlotte go home together. Back in the hotel room, Bob carries Charlotte inside and puts her to bed before going back to his room and calling his wife to tell about the house Charlie designed and built. He also tells his children to eat and obey his wife. Bob says he's not really having fun but that it's very different.

The next day, Bob doesn't have to work, and he goes out to play golf. That night, he meets back up with Charlotte. Bob tells her about the massage he tried to get, and now he's in pain. She shows him her foot. She hurt it, and it's not getting any better. He wants her to go to the doctor, but she doesn't agree. Finally, though, Bob gets Charlotte to a hospital. They have trouble communicating, since everyone seems to know only Japanese. They eventually have x-rays completed while Bob waits. The Japanese doctor tells Charlotte what's wrong, but she has no idea what he's saying.

Outside in the waiting room, a man tries to talk to Bob, but he knows nothing. Bob can't understand a word, but he tries to be nice while waiting for Charlotte. Finally, Charlotte comes out, and Bob has a funny pillow for her. Later, Charlotte sits in her room and looks at pictures of her and John while Bob plays golf in his room. Charlotte calls and leaves Bob a message so that he can meet her and Charlie out later.

Bob has been waiting for a while when Charlotte finally arrives. Charlie and the other guys are taking a dance class. Bob and Charlotte leave after a little while and see his ad on a billboard. They go back to their normal bar for drinks but leave because of the singing.

That night, Charlotte can't sleep. A note is slid under her door, and she gets up to read it. She reads it and then meets Bob to watch a movie. She talks about the first time she saw him in a tuxedo at the bar. She thought he was handsome. He remembers seeing her in the elevator the first time. He tells her that she smiled at him.

Bob and Charlotte also talk about the differences between Japan and America. She never wants to come to Japan again because it would never be as much fun again. They lie together on the bed, and Charlotte asks if life gets easier. Bob says no at first and then says yes. Bob explains that the more you know who you are and what you want, the less you let things upset you. She doesn't know what she's supposed to be. He tells her that he's not worried about her and encourages her to keep writing.

Charlotte asks about marriage, and Bob says that it's hard. After he and his wife had kids, they don't need each other or have fun anymore. Kids make everything more



complicated. He says that the most terrifying day of his life was the day the first one was born. Life as you know it is gone forever.

Bob goes on to tell Charlotte that as children grow up, you want to be with them, and they end up being delightful people. Bob then begins asking Charlotte about her life. She simply says that she grew up in New York and then moved to L.A. when she married John. She has been traveling with him since then.

The next day, Charlotte is on a train looking at the view. She sees many different aspects of Japanese culture while she travels and sees love shown in many ways besides passion. At the hotel, Bob shaves and finds out that a fax is waiting for him. The hotel personnel agree to bring it up to him.

When Bob goes downstairs, he goes out and sees the city life in Japan. Everything is hectic and crazy. Bob then calls and agrees to change his plans so that he can stay and do a talk show. Bob finally appears on the show and comes on with a translator.

Later that evening, Bob's cell phone rings, and his wife is on the phone. His carpet is out of stock, and he tells her to pick whatever she likes. He tells her that he's lost. She doesn't seem to understand what he's saying but tries to be patient with him. Bob tells his wife that he's decided to take better care of himself. Bob wants to eat healthier, without the pasta she makes, and begin exercising. She gets frustrated and tells him that the kids are getting used to him being gone. Lydia asks if she should be worried about him, and he says that she can if she wants to.

Bob watches the talk show later and realizes that they made fun of him on national television. A woman sits down next to him in the bar after that and begins talking to him. The next thing he knows, he wakes up, hears a woman singing, and sees wine on a table.

There is a knock on the door, and Bob gets it. Charlotte wants to know if he wants to go get sushi later, but he says he can't come right now. Charlotte hears the woman singing and says he must be busy. Bob is embarrassed and tries to smooth things over with Charlotte before she leaves.

Later Lydia calls Bob while he's walking down the street. His children were going to talk to him, but they're doing other things. Lydia tells him to travel safely and to make sure he's at his daughter's piano recital. He meets Charlotte for lunch, and they talk about Bob's one-night stand.

Bob gets ready to leave, and Charlotte stands alone as she waits on Bob. He goes over to talk to her, and she tells him that the lunch was terrible. Bob says he's leaving the next day, and Charlotte admits that she'll miss him.

At the bar that night, Bob and Charlotte listen to music, drink and watch each other. Bob admits that he doesn't want to leave, and she tells him to stay there with her. He realizes that he simply has to go home and return to his regular life. Bob and Charlotte ride the elevator up to the rooms, and Bob gets ready to get off but kisses her on the





cheek first. When the doors close before he gets off, he rides up with her but then returns to his room.

The next morning a fax comes in that reads, "I Miss You!" Everyone at the bar wishes Bob goodbye as he walks out. He is disappointed to find that Charlotte is not waiting downstairs when he arrives in the lobby. Bob uses the phone to call Charlotte to come down to the lobby so that he can get his jacket and wish her goodbye. Since she's not in the room, he leaves her a goodbye message.

A group of Japanese people thanks Bob for coming while a fan stops him. Charlotte then appears, and Bob leaves everyone else. She returns his jacket and asks if he's leaving now. He is, and they awkwardly try to say goodbye. Bob hears the elevator bell and watches as the doors close behind Charlotte. Then he leaves.

On the way to the airport, Bob thinks about his trip. He remembers all the good times that he's had with Charlotte and all that he'll miss when he's back home. They stop at a light, and he thinks he sees Charlotte so he runs after her. He catches up with her, and they embrace. Bob leans down and whispers something to her, and she says okay. Then, they kiss and say goodbye. Charlotte walks down the busy street, and Bob gets back in his car to go to the airport.



# Characters

## Charlotte, played by Scarlett Johansson

### Description

Charlotte is a young woman who is visiting Tokyo with her husband, a photographer. Rather than having her own career, she simply travels with him and often feels neglected as a result. She often even lets him go off on trips without her and then spends her time in the hotel being bored.

Charlotte finds herself in the bar one night and spots Bob. She goes to him and asks him to join their group. She finds his conversation stimulating unlike the people she's with, and after her husband leaves on his trip, the two begin to spend time together.

Charlotte becomes strangely attracted to Bob as their relationship progresses. They are both trying to work through many difficult situations in their lives, and they learn to help each other along the way. When Bob leaves, Charlotte is terribly sad, but they meet again when he stops to kiss her on the street.

### Analysis

Charlotte is an intelligent young woman who seems to simply be going along with her life with no purpose. She seems to have no goals or dreams and can't understand why her life isn't turning out the way she wants.

Charlotte also has a trait that drives her husband crazy: she is always pointing out the bad in other people. Because of her intelligence, she considers everyone else to be stupid and takes pleasure in pointing out others' flaws whenever she can. Although this drives her husband crazy, she seems to stop to some extent after she meets Bob.

Charlotte's life is changed through her friendship with Bob. She is finally able to talk with someone about the issues she is facing who has been through or is going through the same things.

Bob and Charlotte begin their friendship in a bar where they struggle with the language, and they find that it completely changes their lives. Even if they don't stay together, they are certain to remember this experience for the rest of their lives.



## Bob Harris, played by Bill Murray

### Description

Bob Harris is an aging American actor whose desperation for work leads him to Tokyo. He has been hired by a Japanese company to film commercials for their product. Bob is embarrassed to even be doing such a job, but he knows that his wife will need more money since she's busy redecorating their home.

Bob quickly finds the bar after a long day at work and eventually meets Charlotte. She is young and beautiful, and he is thrilled to have a little admiration from her. Although he is hesitant to spend time with her, she continuously pulls him out of his comfort zone to have some fun.

Bob is having a lot of problems at home, and he is finally able to discuss the issues with Charlotte. She helps him work through some of his ideas, and they understand each other very well. Bob even considers staying when it's time to return home. He does find Charlotte in the street, however, and kiss her. At the end of the film, it's left to the viewer's imagination whether he will return home happier or eventually return to Charlotte.

### Analysis

Bob is obviously going through a mid-life crisis. He has already reached and passed the highest point of his career. Now, all he has to look forward to is working on cheap commercials like this one in Japan. He is not excited about his prospects and seems to be withering up from boredom.

Bob's marriage is not going much better than his career. His wife and kids drive him crazy, and he is beginning to feel trapped by the pressure to be with them all the time. The only good thing about the job seems to be that he is thousands of miles away.

Bob struggles to understand his life and his role while he is in Japan. He is bored and tired of his life, and he is ready for change. When Charlotte appears on the scene, he finally has someone who is ready to try new things and have some fun. Bob is thrilled by her friendship, and they have a wonderful time together.

At the end of the film, viewers are left questioning whether Bob and Charlotte will end up back together someday. Although this might seem ideal, Bob seems to use the kiss on the street as a thank you and goodbye before returning home to his real life in the States.



## **Ms. Kawasaki, played by Akiko Takeshita**

### **Description**

Ms. Kawasaki is one of the executives with the company Bob is doing the commercial for. She serves as his liaison to help interpret and explain his role.

### **Analysis**

Ms. Kawasaki and her translations only help to remind the viewer of the vast cultural difference.

## **John, played by Giovanni Ribisi**

### **Description**

John is Charlotte's husband. He is a photographer and has been sent to Japan on an important assignment. He is sometimes very critical of her, and he also shows her that his work is more important than she is most of the time.

### **Analysis**

Although John seems to care about Charlotte, he is very focused on his career and out of town a lot.

## **Commercial Director, played by Yutaka Tadokoro**

### **Description**

Bob Harris has been employed to shoot some commercials in Tokyo. The language barrier is especially apparent as he tries to deal with his commercial director. The director is hard to please and makes requests that make no sense. When the shoots are finally over, both are relieved.

### **Analysis**

The Commercial Director serves to point out the difficulties Bob has with the language. The audience sees that the cultures are completely different and many concepts are lost in translation. This serves as a broader comment on human communication in general.



## **Kelly, played by Anna Farris**

### **Description**

Kelly is a young model who John has photographed on several occasions. They run into each other in the hotel lobby one day, and she raves about his exceptional work. She also seems to have a crush on John that Charlotte does not appreciate.

### **Analysis**

Kelly seems to be a bit of an airhead, and Charlotte loses no opportunity to point this out. John, however, becomes angry and tells her to stop being such a constant pessimist about life and people.

## **Charlie, played by Fumihiko Hayashi**

### **Description**

Charlie is one of Charlotte and John's friends, who she visits while with Bob.

### **Analysis**

The party and night out with Charlie helps viewers to see the differences between life in the States and life in Japan.

# Themes

## Need for Others

Both Charlotte and Bob have been living their lives apart from their families and friends. They spend little time thinking about others or really caring what's going on with family and friends. With Charlotte's husband gone all the time and Bob's wife so far away, neither realizes what they've been missing until they find each other.

Bob and Charlotte meet as they live in the same hotel while he's there on business and she's with her husband as he travels in the area for business. They innocently meet at the bar, where they are two of the only Americans. Over the weeks, Bob and Charlotte become extremely close. Although they never have a physical affair, they do become emotionally involved as they learn that they can no longer live boring, frustrating lives on their own.

## Finding Your Way Through Life

Everyone has a journey to make. As they travel through life, people try to figure out who they are and what they're going to do with their lives. Both Charlotte and Bob realize that they have just been living lives as if they were machines rather than truly enjoying their lives and activities.

Both Bob and Charlotte are at crossroads in their lives when they meet. They both want to have healthy, productive relationships but aren't terribly interested in putting in all the effort to make their relationships work. As Charlotte and Bob try to find their way through life, they find each other. Together they work through their issues to make peace with themselves and those they love. When Bob finally leaves, he finds Charlotte and embraces her passionately, but viewers are left to make their own decisions concerning whether or not they will end up together as a couple.

## Difficulties of Everyday Life

Everyday life is tough, and *Lost in Translation* really tackles those issues. With so many films concentrating on the high point of initial passion in love and showing idealized marriages and families, it's nice to finally see something that shows another part of familial reality. When the film begins, Bob and Charlotte are both running away from the difficulties in their lives. Bob has actually gone thousands of miles to avoid his problems, while Charlotte's husband makes it easy for her to ignore them by being absent.

As Bob and Charlotte's relationship deepens, they actually talk about their difficulties. They delve into their problems and give one another advice. Finally, they realize that their short relationship is more meaningful than all their others, at least for now. In the

end, they still have the same difficulties, but they are no longer avoiding their problems alone.

## Style and Cinematography

*Lost in Translation* is a unique film. Many modern films move quickly to keep the viewers' interest, but this film develops slowly in comparison. From the first time the audience sees Bob and Charlotte to the point when they actually meet and begin to spend time together is a long way into the movie. We are able to see how difficult it can be to overcome all the barriers to form relationships with others.

The film also focuses on unique questions that everyone can understand. Bob and Charlotte spend much of their time talking about life and relationships as well as their hopes and dreams. Bob is able to give Charlotte some insight about life since he is many years her senior.

The acting in the film is exceptional. Although Bob and Charlotte are from very different generations, the actors work to make sure that there is nothing unusual about the two coming together. Instead, it seems only natural that these two intelligent people would be drawn together to figure out some things about their lives.



# Motifs

## Difficulty with Japanese

Throughout the film, both Bob and Charlotte struggle to understand Japanese. Bob's employers have trouble communicating with him during shoots while Charlotte struggles to get around alone with a limited understanding of the language. This trouble is symbolic of the difficulties of human communication and of making connections with other people.

As the two struggle with Japanese, Bob and Charlotte become closer and begin dealing with their other struggles as well. Bob and Charlotte discover that their struggle with the language is somewhat representative of the struggles they have to deal with in their own lives while at home in the States.

As Bob and Charlotte learn Japanese over the course of their stay, they also discover more about each other. Both are in difficult marriages and are having trouble with issues in their lives. The more they learn about each other, the more they realize about themselves. Finally, they come to terms with their lives and say a sweet goodbye and return home.

## The Commercials

Bob is an aging film star who has been hired by a Japanese company to film commercials. He realizes that his career is quickly coming to an end with these changes, but he is still glad to be away from his wife and children for a while.

After Bob begins filming the commercials, they serve as a storytelling device. First, the audience learns more about his attitude and the difficulties in dealing with the language and cultural barriers through the filming. Also, as the ads and the commercials begin to show up around the city, the audience learns even more about his life.

As Bob tells Charlotte more about his life, the audience learns about his extreme disappointment, and it is accentuated every time we see a commercial or ad that Bob makes during his waning career. The commercials remind us that Bob and Charlotte are both suffering from similar problems and disappointments.

## Bar Scenes

Every night after working all day, Bob goes down and sits at the bar for a drink. He doesn't know anyone in the city, so he always sits alone at the bar with his drink. One night, Charlotte finally comes over and talks to him before dragging him over to the table with her and her husband. This is the first time the two meet, and it sets an entire course of events into motion.

The bar scenes also help us see the changes in Bob and Charlotte's relationship. At first, they sit far apart and chitchat about basic things in life. As their relationship progresses, though, we see them sitting closer to one another and discussing deeper topics.



# Symbols

## Billboards

Japan is full of billboards. They seem to be absolutely everywhere. After Bob does some of his commercials and photo shoots, he ends up on the billboards as well. When Bob and Charlotte are out, the audience sometimes spots him on the billboards.

The billboards are symbolic of Bob's confusion with his life. His career has gone so far down hill that he is now forced to take such jobs as appearing in commercials and on billboards in Japan.

Bob is also confused about his relationships at home. His wife and children drive him crazy, but he still feels a responsibility for them. As he talks to Charlotte, he realizes that he has been missing out on living his life and seems to make a new commitment to live his life to the fullest.

## The Rooms

Bob and Charlotte share rooms in the same hotel. One night while down in the bar, they meet and strike up a conversation. From that point on, the film revolves around their relationship and their needs and desires.

Although Bob and Charlotte are in the same hotel, their rooms are completely different. The rooms are symbolic of their personalities. Charlotte's room is stark white but cluttered and crazy with her stuff and John's equipment. In the same way, Charlotte is vibrant and active.

Bob's room, on the other hand, is completely spotless. Everything is in order every morning, and he never seems to have to clean a thing. Bob is always living for duty rather than for himself. He seems to have little fun and is simply going through the motions of enjoying his life.

## The Kiss

At the end of the film, Bob and Charlotte have to say goodbye. He is returning to his family in the States while she is staying in Japan with John, who is still out of town. Although their goodbye is very simple, there is a lot of emotion behind it.

While Bob rides through the city in his cab, he thinks back over his trip and realizes just how much he will miss Charlotte. When his cab stops at a light, he catches a glimpse of her, jumps out of the car and runs after her. He embraces her and gives her a kiss.



The kiss can be considered symbolic of their relationship. They have been friends throughout the trip and have truly changed each other's lives. Viewers are left to decide whether, in the end, Bob and Charlotte's kiss is the end of this beautiful time or simply the beginning of a relationship together.



# Essay Questions

Why is Bob in Tokyo?

Describe the relationship between Charlotte and her husband.

How do Bob and Charlotte meet? Why do they end up spending time together?

Why does Bob have difficulty with the director?

Where does Charlotte's husband go?

How does Bob feel about his wife and children? How do you think his relationship with his family came to be this way?

Describe Bob and Charlotte's relationship as it progresses.

Why doesn't Bob want to leave?

Describe the goodbye between Bob and Charlotte.

Do you think Bob and Charlotte will see each other again?