

1. Did you know anything about Bonnie and Clyde before you watched this film? How did the movie compare with your expectations?
2. What compels Bonnie and Clyde to embark on their crime spree?
3. The violence in the film was considered excessive for its time. Do you think it is used effectively to tell the story? Provide a specific example.
4. In what ways are Bonnie and Clyde portrayed as heroes? What were some of their personality traits? Why does this movie portray them so sympathetically?
5. How does the movie convey the hardships of the Great Depression? Provide specific examples.
6. The real Bonnie and Clyde were not as beautiful as their movie counterparts. How would your identification with them be different if they looked like “ordinary folks?”
7. What is the role of the Kodak camera? Why are they always taking pictures?
8. What did you like about this movie? What did you dislike? Once again, support your statements with specific scenes/situations from the film.
9. How might this movie tell us as much about the 1960s (when it was made) as it does the 1930s?
10. Does this movie align with how you might typically think about an “old” movie?


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Accompanying primary source:

**“The Trail’s End” Poem by Bonnie Parker (1934)**

You've read the story of Jesse James

of how he lived and died.

If you're still in need;

of something to read,

here's the story of Bonnie and Clyde.

Now Bonnie and Clyde are the Barrow gang

I'm sure you all have read.

how they rob and steal;

and those who squeal,

are usually found dying or dead.

There's lots of untruths to these write-ups;

they're not as ruthless as that.

their nature is raw;

they hate all the law,

the stool pidgeons, spotters and rats.

They call them cold-blooded killers

they say they are heartless and mean.

But I say this with pride

that I once knew Clyde,

when he was honest and upright and clean.

But the law fooled around;

kept taking him down,

and locking him up in a cell.

Till he said to me;

"I'll never be free,

so I'll meet a few of them in hell"

The road was so dimly lighted

there were no highway signs to guide.

But they made up their minds;

if all roads were blind,

they wouldn't give up till they died.

The road gets dimmer and dimmer

sometimes you can hardly see.

But it's fight man to man

and do all you can,

for they know they can never be free.

From heart-break some people have suffered

from weariness some people have died.

But take it all in all;

our troubles are small,

till we get like Bonnie and Clyde.

If a policeman is killed in Dallas

and they have no clue or guide.

If they can't find a fiend,

they just wipe their slate clean

and hang it on Bonnie and Clyde.

There's two crimes committed in America

not accredited to the Barrow mob.

They had no hand;

in the kidnap demand,

nor the Kansas City Depot job.

A newsboy once said to his buddy;

"I wish old Clyde would get jumped.

In these awfull hard times;

we'd make a few dimes,

if five or six cops would get bumped"

The police haven't got the report yet

but Clyde called me up today.

He said, “Don’t start any fights;

we aren't working nights,

we're joining the NRA."

From Irving to West Dallas viaduct

is known as the Great Divide.

Where the women are kin;

and the men are men,

and they won't "stool" on Bonnie and Clyde.

If they try to act like citizens

and rent them a nice little flat.

About the third night;

they're invited to fight,

by a sub-gun's rat-tat-tat.

They don't think they're too smart or desperate

they know that the law always wins.

They've been shot at before;

but they do not ignore,

that death is the wages of sin.

Some day they'll go down together

they'll bury them side by side.

To few it'll be grief,

to the law a relief

but it's death for Bonnie and Clyde.