

## Universal Themes in Film: Christian Allegory in Martin McDonagh's In Bruges

View the film, *In Bruges*, and then, using the main ideas of Christian Allegory, write a 3-5 page essay in which you interpret the characters, plot, and ending by showing how writer/director Martin McDonagh depicts many universal Christian archetypes in telling the story of the central character, Ray, and his experiences in Bruges. After writing the essay and submitting it, bring your work to help you with the in class test in which I will ask you to match the people, settings, and dialogue lines to their Christian representation.

The lecture ideas are tied to the narrative of the film and given to students as a series of handouts after they have viewed a portion of the movie and we have stopped for teacher, peer, and individual analyses of the events as they occur. Since students will have a great variety of familiarity or lack of awareness of foundational Christian concepts, it is important to define, explain, and interpret how the allegory applies to fictional stories and the true intention of spiritual concepts: how they offer guidelines for people's real life choices and conflicts.