Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Simon Birch*** is a heartwarming and funny hit that’s earned overwhelming critical acclaim. Even though Simon is the smallest kid in town, deep down he knows that he was born to do something big! He’s on a constant search to discover his destiny, but somehow manages to find nothing but trouble. Meanwhile, Simon’s best friend Joe is searching for the identity of his father, a secret his mother has guarded Joe’s entire life. As these two share the hilarious and sometimes tragic, ups and down that will forever bind them together, discover for yourself the undeniable charms of this uplifting and inspirational motion picture!

**Directions: Answer the questions completely as you watch the film.**

1. What was it that brought Simon and Joe together as friends?
2. At the beginning of the movie, we learn about Simon’s baggage. What is it?
3. What was Simon’s home life like?
4. The men on the dock tease Simon and his friend, Joe, as they ride by on their bike. How does Simon make the right choice to avoid conflict?
5. Why do people also make fun of Joe?
6. Why did the Sunday school teacher and the minister find Simon so annoying?
7. Who was Simon’s guardian angel?
8. Why was she his angel?
9. When Simon is in trouble during church how is Mrs. Wenteworth an example of a positive bystander?
10. Sadly, what happened to Simon’s guardian angel?
11. What was Simon’s main objective throughout the movie?
12. What was Joe’s main objective throughout the movie, especially after his mother died?
13. The church play ends up being a disaster, ending with a violent conflict between the bystanders. What could the bystanders have done to avoid a physical fight?
14. A little boy expresses to Simon his fear of being bullied while on the trip. What are some ways that Simon can act as a positive bystander?
15. What was Simon’s destiny in the movie according to Joe?
16. What do you think Joe’s destiny in life was?
17. Simon’s physical appearance stands in the way of him fitting in, even with his family. Who in the movie gave Simon a sense of belonging?
18. Discuss a time in your life when you felt you didn’t fit in.

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1. Has anyone ever helped you fit in at one time or another? Explain.

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1. What are some of the burdens that Simon has?
2. What was Joe’s reaction when he learns the identity of his father?
3. Why do you think this information had such an effect on Joe?
4. How do the events within the movie and the positive and negative baggage in Joe’s life contribute to his perspective?
5. Simon always felt like he had a purpose in life. How did this belief affect his perspective of the world?
6. Why did Simon want to be a hero so badly?
7. Did Simon ever become a hero?
8. What is your definition of a hero?
9. Sometimes a hero can be someone you know, like a parent, teacher, coach or friend. Maybe you felt Ben was Joe’s hero. Who has been a hero for you in your life? Explain.
10. Thinking about your goals and dreams, what do you want your purpose in life to be?
11. Describe the main characters in the movie & their relationship to each other

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| Simon: |
| Joe: |
| Mrs. Wentworth: |
| The Reverend: |
| Ben: |

1. Most students enjoy this movie. Did you enjoy it? Why or why not? Explain your answer.

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1. I hope that the time you spent watching this movie was an educational experience. What did you ***learn*** from the movie?

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