STRANGERS ON A TRAIN (1951)
Directed by: Alfred Hitchcock

The   story: What do you get when you combine a harmless conversation about the "perfect" murder, with the harsh reality of actually seeing it come true? What you have when these two elements evolve is one of Alfred Hitchcock's greatest thrillers...***Strangers on a Train.***

Main Characters:

Guy Haynes: Tennis Star, Husband of Miriam.

Bruno Anthony: Psychopath, very wealthy.

Ann Morton: Guy's love interest, daughter of a U.S. Senator

Barbara Morton: Sister of Ann Morton (played by Hitchcock's real daughter)

Miriam Haines: Guy's Wife

Notes and Trivia:

Academy Award nominated for Best Cinematography, 1951.

Hitchcock stated that the "man under the carrousel" stunt was the most dangerous he had ever done and that he would never attempt it again.

Robert Walker (Bruno Anthony) had a nervous breakdown and died immediately after the release of this film.

"Reading a Movie":

"Reading a movie" is like reading a book. When you read a book, you look for words that support the author's main idea. When you read a movie, you are looking at the types of shots that support the director's main idea. Every shot MEANS something, and the way every shot is framed contributes to the director's overall vision.

Find an example of each in the film, and briefly describe what you see. The first one is done for you.

Aerial Shot:	*High angle shot of Bruno sitting at the bus stop waiting for Miriam.*
Close Up:	
Pan:	
Tilt:	
Dolly Shot:	
Extreme Close Up:	
Zoom Shot:	
Extreme Long Shot:	
Establishing Shot:	
Follow Shot:	
Point of View Shot (POV):	
Medium Shot:	
Over the Shoulder Shot:	
Rule of Thirds Composition:	

15.) Hitchcock is known as the "Master of Suspense." Explain 2 scenes that had a lot of suspense. What did Hitchcock use to build that suspense?

16.) Hitchcock sometimes places evil characters on the left side of the screen, and good or dominant characters on the right side of the screen. A) What are two scenes in which this occurs?

B) Why do you think he does this?

17.) He is also known for creating sympathetic antagonists that the audience roots for more than the protagonist. Is this the case in Strangers on a Train? Explain why or why not.

18.) This film uses light and shadows to create deeper meanings. Give two examples of where shadows are used to show the true nature of a character.

19.) The scene with Guy's match and Bruno returning to the scene can be scene as a mirror image of the entire film. How do the actions in this scene mimic those of our characters throughout the movie? Explain.