

**TSSM**<sup>TM</sup>  
Creating VCE Success

SAMPLE

ENGLISH TEXT SUMMARY NOTES  
**“Look Both Ways”**

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# AREA 1:

## READING & RESPONDING:

### LOOK BOTH WAYS

## Chapter 1

### GENRE

A text can usually be categorized by the general kind or type of text that it is. There are many different genres to appeal to the various personal preferences of film-goers. *Look Both Ways* involves an ensemble cast – there are a number of main characters. The Director herself regards the film as a *romantic comedy*, and certainly it is about people and their relationships. However, the film is about the daily events of ordinary people, therefore *Domestic Drama* suits the film equally well.

#### **Genre:**

*Romantic comedy*

This is the film director's own nominated genre.

*Domestic Drama*

The domestic world of family and individuals and the events and relationships that emerge out of ordinary life.

### 1.1 Title

A film's title can often be revealing as it may give direct or indirect indications of genre, and also aspects of plot, characters and themes. The title, *Look Both Ways*, is an appropriation of a sign at pedestrian rail crossing – 'look both ways for trains'. This sign is seen at a rail pedestrian crossing in the scene at the beginning of the film where Meryl is returning home from her father's funeral. The title is a reference to life, clearly understood by the film's tagline – *disaster is everywhere*.

#### **Title:**

Be wary of the problems that life will probably throw at you.

### 1.2 Audience

At a simple level, it could be said that the audience for this film is people who like to see films of this particular genre. However, the natural audience for a film such as this is people who enjoy *art house* cinema. Art house films have a certain artistic slant to their construction and also have a more serious presentation of their themes. *Look Both Ways* may also be regarded as a film for an audience that is looking for something a little different from the usual output of the production companies. The film has an ensemble cast, which is not common; its chronology is very short, covering only a single weekend from Friday to Sunday; it plays a sound-track of complete songs rather than just passages of incidental music; and, the action is inter-cut with animated scenes that describe the psychological impact of the events that occur in the characters' lives.

**Audience:**

Those who enjoy films of this particular genre, or who enjoy art house cinema.

**1.3 Purpose**

A screenwriter writes a film for a particular reason. Often, the purpose can be recognized, especially in relation to the major themes, as the writer may wish to address a particular issue. *Look Both Ways* explores the impact that random events may have on the lives ordinary people and issues that they face.

**Purpose:**

To explore the lives and issues of random events on ordinary people.

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