The Secret Life of Walter Mitty
A Film Study

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Quintessence
The most perfect or typical example of a quality; epitome, ideal, embodiment.

Pre-viewing task:
You are an employee of Life magazine. You are asked to arrange a page of photos (3-5) that capture the “quintessence” of life. This means that these photos truly capture the epitome of what life means. Describe the 3-5 photographs that you would include on this page in detail. Next, explain why these photographs capture what life really is.
Viewing Focus:

*Relationships.* Describe the following relationships between characters in as much detail as possible. Add to your notes as you view the film to describe the changing relationships as the film progresses.

Walter Mitty/Walter’s Mom

Walter Mitty/Cheryl
Plot Mapping. Draw a large plot diagram below. As you watch the film, add notes to each component of plot. Be sure to be very detailed in describing what is occurring throughout the film.
Post-Viewing:

1. How do Walter's “episodes” impact his life at the beginning of the film? By the end of the film?

2. What is the significance of Walter's place of work?

3. Describe the importance of the song “Space Oddity” to Walter's journey.

4. How does Sean O'Connell impact Walter's life?

5. Why do you think Sean chose the photo that he did for the magazine's last photo?
6. How does Walter change as a character after he visits Iceland?

7. What would you consider a major theme of the film to be? Why?

8. What does the drastic change that Walter undergoes reveal to us about life?

SIGNIFICANCE
Explain the significance or importance of the following:

- Clementine Cake

- eHarmony’s “Been there, done that” section

- The Wallet

- LIFE magazine

- The skateboard
Papa John’s