

*Ladri di biciclette*- Bicycle Thief

## PART I: BEFORE VIEWING

*Ladri di biciclette*/ Bicycle Thief (look up missing info on IMDb)

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

### Cast

Character

Actor/ Actress

Antonio

Bruno

Maria

Baiocco

The Thief

1) Watch the English language trailer to *Ladri di biciclette* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2P4xo9kmPM>). Who do you imagine the characters to be (occupations, relations/interrelations, challenges/solutions)? What do you think *Ladri di biciclette* will be about? Write a minimum of 5 sentences.

## PART II: WHILE VIEWING

1) Pick one technique/element to focus on: music/sound, camerawork, symbolism/iconography. Describe how this technique/element is used in one scene. Be sure to jot down the minutes so you can re-view it and expand upon this response after viewing the film in its entirety. Write a minimum of 7-10 sentences.

**PART III: After Viewing**

1) What elements/ themes/ aesthetics/ film techniques of neorealism did you observe while screening *Ladri di biciclette*? How do they differ from elements/ themes/ aesthetics/ film techniques of commercial cinema? Include your reflection (you can include examples from commercial films) as well as Marcus's observations ("De Sica's *Bicycle Thief*: Casting Shadows on the Visionary City," p. 56-58) Write 5-7 sentences.

2) Marcus describes the film narrative as "banal" and the visual style as "deceptively simple" (p. 58). Do you agree with her remarks? Why or why not? What might be the intent/ impact of these artistic choices? Consider, for example, how they diverge from the techniques used in *Il conformista*, as well as the role they play in the spectator's relation to the protagonist. Write 3-5 sentences.

3) Much of the film narrative revolves around the father-son relationship between Antonio and Bruno. How is masculinity represented? Is Antonio a positive role model for his son? Why do you think De Sica includes a child's perspective? Include Marcus's observations (p. 58-64) as well as your own. Reference specific scenes when appropriate. Write 5-7 sentences.

4) The literal translation of *Ladri di biciclette* is "Bicycle Thieves." However, this film is more commonly known by the title *Bicycle Thief* in the U.S. Why this distinction? How many bicycle thieves are there? Does changing 'thieves' to 'thief' impact the social commentary this film generates? Why or Why not? Write 3-5 sentences.