

THE NARRATOR

Dave's counselor suggests a different treatment to his depression.

Before watching: Read through the **glossary** to familiarize yourself with the expressions. Just by looking at the glossary, what do you think the movie will be about?

refreshed	<i>(här) utvilad</i>
a swell of nerves	<i>(här) nervös</i>
counselor	<i>rådgivare, terapeut</i>
narration	<i>berättande</i>
inability	<i>oförmåga</i>
to grasp	<i>att förstå</i>
the sharpest tool in the shed	<i>den skarpaste kniven i lådan (att inte vara skarp = att vara osmart)</i>
possessed	<i>besatt</i>
mundane	<i>trivial</i>
infinite	<i>oändlig</i>
to complain	<i>att klaga</i>
to value	<i>att värdera</i>
pompous	<i>pompös, uppblåst</i>
to drone on	<i>att mala på, prata på</i>
smug	<i>självelåten</i>
to scurry	<i>att kila, springa</i>
to emerge	<i>att dyka upp</i>
to inflate	<i>att blåsa upp</i>
awkward	<i>pinsam</i>
corporate	<i>företaget</i>
tension	<i>spänning</i>
recent events	<i>det som nyligen inträffat</i>
to avoid	<i>att undvika</i>



While watching: Pause the movie at **5:58** and discuss together as a group.

Discuss together

1. Who is in this movie?
2. Where does the movie take place?
3. What do you think will happen next?

After watching: Read through the questions below and answer them.

What is your understanding of what happens in the movie?

A. Answer these questions for yourself, then discuss them in pairs:

1. Why does Dave have a narrator?
2. Where did he get the narrator from? Who suggested he'd get one?
3. What do you think his colleagues feel about him having one?

B. Answer these questions in pairs:


1. What do you think is the purpose of the narrator? How do you think he manages to know what Dave is thinking and feeling?
2. What do you think corporate management feel about the narrator?
3. How do the narrators change the environment at the office?

C. Answer these questions together as a group:

1. What would you think of having a narrator following you around? What would be the worst parts of it? What would the advantages of it be, you think?
2. Why do you think the movie is called the Narrator? What do you think the deeper meaning of the title could be? See if you can think of more meanings to it than just one.
3. What do you think is the message of the movie? What can we learn from it?
4. How do you think the movie makers want us to feel after having watched the movie?

What to do next

Choose one or more out of the following exercises to work with.

-  Write:

Work on your own. What happens after this movie takes place?

- with Dave?
- With the office?
- With the narrators?


Make up your own story and write it down as a *narrative story* using narration as a grip in your story telling.

-  Discuss:

Work in groups of four and improvise around an office situation. Two of you pretend to be co-workers and two of you pretend to be their narrators. Improvise and see what happens. Switch roles in between. Choose one of the following scenarios;

- You meet in the lunchroom where both of you want the final drops of coffee.
- You meet at the xerox machine where both of you need to scan important documents.
- You have a meeting to discuss an important business deal.

Discuss afterwards: how did it feel to have a narrator? What could be the advantages of it? What could be the disadvantages of it? How did it feel to be the narrator? What was it difficult about it? What was easy with it?

-  Discuss and cooperate:

Work together in pairs at first and then as a whole group. Start by working two and two. Tell each other about something you are really good at/ know a lot about / are really interested in. Describe this thoroughly to each other. Take a few minutes each to do so. Then gather again as a whole group and take turns presenting what your friend told you about.

Discuss afterwards: how did you remember what your friend had said? What was easy in remembering? What was difficult? How important was the way you communicated around the topics when you had to remember it afterwards? How could this have been easier?

Deeper discussions



“The Narrator” takes place in an American office. For these exercises, work in smaller groups of 3-4 and research on the internet.

- In the movie, Dave has a narrator following him around, narrating his emotions and thoughts. Where do we usually find narrators? How do we recognize a narrator? What does a narrator add to a story?
- Dave and his co-workers work in an office in cubicles. What are cubicles and why are they common in offices? What’s the story behind them? When were they first introduced and why? What other office solutions are there besides cubicles? What does research say about office cubicles in terms of productivity? What do you think are the best solutions for offices in concerns to ambience, mental health of co-workers etc.?
- Dave gets a narrator as part of a therapy treatment. Learn more about therapy treatments. When and why are they used? Who uses them? What different sorts of therapy treatments are there?

Arbetsbladet är skrivet av Nina Olivier

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