

# BEETLEJUICE

Worksheet for **Beetlejuice**

**Grade Level:** High School

**Objective:** Analyze the themes, characters, and cinematic techniques of **Beetlejuice**.

## Part 1: Background and Context

### 1. Movie Overview:

- **Release Date:** 1988
- **Director:** Tim Burton
- **Genre:** Fantasy, Comedy, Horror

### 2. Pre-Watching Discussion:

- What do you know about the movie **Beetlejuice**?
- Have you seen any other Tim Burton films? What style or themes do you associate with his work?

## Part 2: Comprehension Questions

### 1. Plot Points

- Why do Adam and Barbara Maitland stay in their house after they pass away?
- How do the Maitlands attempt to scare away the Deetz family? Describe one of their attempts.
- Who is Beetlejuice, and what role does he play in the story?

### 2. Characters

- Describe the relationship between Lydia Deetz and her parents. How does this relationship impact Lydia's actions and perspective?
- In what ways do Adam and Barbara struggle to adjust to their new identities as ghosts?

## Part 3: Themes and Analysis

### 1. Theme of Death and the Afterlife

- **Beetlejuice** presents a humorous yet eerie perspective on the afterlife. How does the movie's depiction of the afterlife differ from traditional representations?
- How do the characters' reactions to death shape the story?

## 2. Identity and Belonging

- Lydia feels like an outsider in her family and often wears dark clothing as an expression of her identity. How does Lydia's character explore themes of identity and acceptance?
- How do Adam and Barbara's attempts to "fit in" as ghosts highlight their struggle with their new identity?

## 3. Satire and Social Commentary

- The film pokes fun at bureaucracy in the afterlife. What message do you think the movie is trying to convey about bureaucracy or rules?

## Part 4: Cinematic Techniques

### 1. Visual Style

- Tim Burton's unique visual style combines gothic elements with dark humor. Describe one scene where the visual style impacts the mood. What effect does it have on the scene?

### 2. Special Effects and Makeup

- *\*Beetlejuice\** uses practical effects to create the bizarre world of the afterlife. Describe a specific effect or makeup choice that stood out to you. How did it add to the story's surreal atmosphere?

### 3. Tone and Music

- The soundtrack of **Beetlejuice** includes a mix of whimsical and eerie music. How does Danny Elfman's music influence the movie's tone in a specific scene?

## Part 5: Discussion Questions

- Do you think **Beetlejuice** is more of a horror film, a comedy, or a mix of both? Justify your answer with examples.
- How does the film use humor to deal with serious themes like death and the afterlife?
- Would you recommend **Beetlejuice** to someone who has never seen it? Why or why not?