

The Great Dictator
Charlie Chaplin

Name: _____

1. When was this film made? What's the historical context?
2. Which real-life country is represented by "Tomania?" Who is "Adenoid Hynkel" supposed to be? Why do you think Chaplin decided to use made-up countries and people in this movie?
3. What do you notice about Hynkel's speech? What language is he speaking? What impression does the "translation" give you?
4. How does Chaplin handle hate speech against Jewish people in this film?
5. What do you think about the depictions of Jewish people in this film?
6. Why is the little Jewish barber brave enough to stand up to the SS police? Why do they let him go?

7. What kind of character is Hynkel? What are some of his major personality traits? How do you know?

8. What do you think of the relationship between Hannah and the little Jewish barber?

9. What on earth is up with that dance scene between Hynkel and the globe?

10. Does the barber's shaving scene remind you of anything?

11. Is humor an appropriate way to handle something as horrible as a genocidal dictator? Is it effective? List at least 5 specific instances of humor in this film that mock and/or take the dictator down a peg.

12. What are some modern examples of using humor to speak truth to power?

13. What are your thoughts on Charlie Chaplin's final speech in this film? Agree? Disagree? Is it moving or corny? Why?

14. Bonus: who or what are the real-life equivalents of:

General Napaloni:

The country Osterlich:

The country Bacteria: