



***Good Morning***  
**(Japan, 1959, 93 minutes)**  
**Director: Yasujiro Ozu**  
**Study Guide**

**Synopsis**

This classic Japanese film is the story of a family in which a great storm is brewing. The father has upbraided his two sons for watching too much television at a neighbor's house. When the boys try to convince their father that they would spend more time at home if he would buy them their own television, he refuses to listen and decrees that no television will enter his home. The boys retaliate by vowing to remain silent at home and school until the father purchases the offending television. At the core of *Good Morning* lies a very human truth: life is not made of big moments and great thoughts; it is marked by its quiet moments and small talk. Ozu is a true humanist who uses small familial issues to define the much broader context of human social interactions.

**Study Questions**

- What role does small talk play in your life?
- Is the role different for older generations? Why or why not?
- What is the role of gossip in your community? Is it harmful?
- If so, how harmful do you think it is and why?
- What are some of the attitudes toward television amongst people in your parent's generation, your grandparent's generation, or people from other cultures?
- What were some of the predictions made in previous eras about the impact of television?

**Discussion questions**

- How does the boys' silence affect the village?
- Why do you think the parents relented and purchased the television?
- What were some of the repercussions of the gossip that went on in the film?
- What did you learn about Japanese culture that you did not expect?