

Film Journal: *Memento*

1. Leonard uses various fact-collecting methods (tattoos, polaroids, etc.) to compensate for his inability to form new memories. How reliable are these methods in comparison with actual memories? Are there any more reliable methods that Leonard could use?

2. Leonard states, “The world doesn’t disappear when you close your eyes, does it? My actions still have meaning, even if I can’t remember them. My wife deserves vengeance, and it doesn’t make any difference whether I know about it.” Is this correct? Would your actions still have meaning if you could never remember them?

3. It turns out that some of Leonard’s memories from before “the incident” are inaccurate. Compare these with your own memories. How accurate are your memories of things that happened more than 2 years ago? Have you ever had “false memories”?

4. “We all need mirrors to remind ourselves who we are. I’m no different.” Lenny’s “mirrors” were his memory devices. What sort of “mirrors” do people with normal memories rely on to remind themselves who they are?
5. At several points in the film, Teddy suggests that Leonard knows who he *was*, but not who he *is now*. Does Teddy mean that the man at the end of the story is not *the same person* as the man at the beginning of the story? If so, is he right? Explain your view.

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