

Task sheets for theme group: Masculinity

1. Getting started: The man card

BECOME COMPETENT WITH AT LEAST ONE PISTOL OR A RIFLE	CAMP WITHOUT A TENT FOR A WEEK	EAT AN ANIMAL YOU KILLED AND CLEANED
COMPLETE A MAJOR REPAIR ON YOUR VEHICLE	 MAN CARD  <p>ONCE COMPLETED THE MANHOOD OF THIS GENTLEMAN MAY NEVER AGAIN BE QUESTIONED</p>	SAVE ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE
TRAVEL OUTSIDE YOUR CONTINENT	LEARN A SKILLED TRADE	DRINK WHISKEY NEAT (WITHOUT ICE OR WATER)

A "man card" doesn't really exist. It is an imaginary "certificate" which shows that a man is a "respectable" member of the male community and has proven that he is "a real man". Example: "We had to take away Henry's man card because he cried in public when Kristina dumped him". (urbandictionary.com)

In your group discuss what tasks you could add to a (stereo)typical "man card". Then think about your own ideas of manliness: What requirements does a man (not) have to meet to be a real man in your eyes?

EXTRA: Design a "lady card".

2. Watching the movie: Walt's masculinity

- a. Describe and analyze different aspects of Walt's masculinity throughout the film: What makes him a 'real man'? The grid below might help you to structure your findings.

Actions/Deeds	Language	Symbols (actual objects)

- b. In your group, discuss which manly attributes you consider to be undesirable, although they are part of Walt Kowalski's positive image as tough guy and savior of the weak.

3. Watching closely: Manning up Thao

- a. Walt teaches Thao how to speak and act like a man. Compare Thao's manliness before and after the lesson at the barber's. Closely watch chapter 18 (DVD 01:07:48 – 01:13:18/YouTube: *Gran Torino* (clip 11) "What do you want to do with your life, kid?") and 19 (DVD 01:13:19 – 01:16:46/YouTube: *Gran Torino* (clip 13) "He knows construction") again. Analyze how Thao's development is supported by the camera.

	In the backyard	At the construction site
Content: the setting and Thao's actions (what image does this give him?)		
Language: how Thao speaks and reacts		
Camera angle		
Field size		
Conclusion		

- b. Compare your results in the group. Discuss Walt's role for Thao: teacher, friend, father? Something else?

4. Exploring further: Femininity in *Gran Torino*

The movie revolves around two male protagonists, some critics have called it macho. Do you agree?

Sue is perhaps the only rounded character. From 1 to 10, how do you rate Sue's strength (1 = very weak, 10 extremely strong)? In your group compare your assessment and justify your point of view.

Is Sue a hero or a victim? Discuss her role in the film.