

Lean on Me

Cast and Characters

Morgan Freeman Joe Clark	Karen Malina White	Nicole Quinn Lillian
Beverly Todd Ms. Levias	Kaneesha Carter	Elsie Hilario Louisa
Robert Guillaume Dr. Napier	Karina Arroyave Maria	Steven Lee Richard Armand
Alan North Mayor Don Bottman	Yvonne Coll Mrs. Santos	Michael A. Joseph Brian Baner
Lynne Thigpen Leonna Barrett	Regina Taylor Mrs. Carter	Richard Grusin Mr. Danley
Robin Bartlett Mrs. Elliott	Michael P. Moran Mr.	Jim Moody Mr. Lott
Michael Beach Mr. Darnell	O'Malley	Veniece Ross Sally
Ethan Phillips Mr. Rosenberg	John Ring Fire Chief Gaines	Raul Gonzalez Ramon
Sandra Reaves-Phillips Mrs.	Tyrone Jackson Clarence	Luz Tolentino Conchita
	Powers	Alex Romaguera Kid Ray
Sloane Shelton Mrs. Hamilton	Tony Todd Mr. Wright	Andre Howell Reggie
Jermaine Hopkins Thomas Sam	Mike Starr Mr. Zirella	Nancy Gathers Tanya
	Yvette Hawkins Mrs. Arthur	Corey Ginn Charles Yale
		Marina Durell Miss Ruiz

Lean on Me

*Some times in our lives, we all have strength,
we all have sorrow.*

*But, if we are wise, we know that there's
always tomorrow.*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong,
and I'll be your friend,
I'll help you carry on.*

*For, it won't be long, 'til you're gonna need,
somebody to lean on.*

*Please swallow your pride, if I have things,
you need to borrow.*

*For, no one can fill, those of your needs,
that you won't let show.*

*Lean on me, when you're not strong,
and I'll be your friend,
I'll help you carry on.*

*For it won't be long, 'til I'm gonna need,
somebody to lean on.*

*Ya just call on me brother, when you need a hand.
We all need somebody to lean on.*

*I just might have a problem, that you'd understand.
We all need somebody to lean on.*

*If there is a load you have to bare, that you can't carry.
I'm right up the road, I'll share your load,
if you just call me.*

Lean on Me

1. At the beginning of the movie how would you describe the school and Joe Clark's class?
2. In what ways has it changed by 1987? How could such a change take place?
3. Why do they bring Joe Clark back to Eastside High?
4. Why does he accept the job?
5. Why is he so hard on the staff when he returns to the school?
6. Why does Joe Clark change the football coach?
7. Was it fair for Joe Clark to kick all those students out of school? Why?
8. According to Joe Clark, who is responsible for each student's education?
9. Who is Thomas Samms? How does Mr. Clark treat Thomas Samms? Does the treatment seem fair? Do some students need to be treated like Samms?
10. How does the music teacher react when Mr. Clark interrupts her class? How might it have been necessary to cancel the concert?
11. Why does Mr. Clark chain the doors shut?
12. Who does Mr. Clark blame for the students failing the exam? What method might there be behind his madness? Is his blame too simplistic?
13. Why did Clark get arrested? How does the mayor get Mr. Clark to speak to the crowd?
14. How has the attitude of the students toward Mr. Clark changed since the beginning of the movie?
15. How would you feel about Joe Clark if you were
 - a) One of his students?
 - b) A teacher at his school?
 - c) A parent of a student in his school?
16. In the end, which students took control of their own lives and which students had their lives controlled or had totally lost any control?
How might this movie support the idea that we control our own lives?
How might it be too much Hollywood and too little reality?