

Discussion Questions for *Wall Street*

Some of the major characters to watch for: Bud Fox, Gordon Gekko, Darien Taylor, Carl Fox, Sir Lawrence Wildman, Lou Mannheim

1. Early in the story, Bud seems to be an honest guy who has a significant respect for the law. But then he falls very far very fast. How did this compromise happen and what can we learn from it?
2. Bud's existence is pretty hedonistic throughout the movie. But he seemingly has terrific role models in his father (Carl) and in the owner of his company (Lou). So why do you think that Bud did not become more like they are?
3. In a classic scene from the movie, Gordon Gekko grabs a microphone and instructs an audience of corporate shareholders that "greed, for lack of a better word, is good." What's his argument and if you think he's incorrect, what the problem with his argument?
4. Consider the materialism of Gordon Gekko, Bud Fox and Darien Taylor. Would it be possible for a person to be immersed in a culture of materialism for an extended period of time, but still retain a proper perspective on money and possessions?
5. Are you susceptible to the temptations dramatized in this story? How might you avoid drift?