Rocky Data Questions:

1. How does the non-diegetic/background score establish the mood of the film? Why is “ROCKY” so large as a title?

2. Where is the opening boxing event held? How is this setting ironic?

3. How is Rocky indirectly characterized by the first fight that we see? What does it mean to fight like a bum? Does Rocky fight like one?

4. Why do the filmmakers not open with the opening credits until after the fight? How is Rocky indirectly characterized by the setting of his apartment and how he behaves outside of the boxing ring?

5. What does Rocky likely think about when he looks at a picture of himself when he was younger? Why?

6. How is Adrian indirectly characterized by her costume and actions? How does Rocky behave around her? Why?

7. What does Rocky do to make money? Does it look like he enjoys his work?Why or why not? What is his relationship like with his boss?

8. Why is Rocky filmed via low angle? What has Mickey done with Rocky’s boxing gear? Why? How is Mickey indirectly characterized?

9. What is Paulie’s opinion of his sister, Adrian? How does he likely treat her? How does this treatment suggest why Adrian is who she is?

10. How is Apollo Creed indirectly characterized by his appearance and behavior in the TV interview that Rocky watches?

11. What advice does Rocky provide Marie, and how does she respond to it? How is this scene filmed and edited? Note the use of the Steadicam.

12. What is Apollo Creed’s conflict or problem? What’s his solution? Why does he want to fight the Italian Stallion? What’s a Southpaw?

13. What is Adrian’s internal conflict? Does she want to date Rocky? Why or why not? How does Rocky’s date with Adrian go? Why?

14. What is Mickey’s grievance with Rocky? Is he right? Why or why not? What is Rocky’s response?

15. What is Rocky’s initial reaction to Apollo’s request to fight him? Why does he ultimately agree to fight Apollo?

16. Why does Mickey want to manage Rocky for the fight? What is Rocky’s initial reaction? Why? Why does Rocky ultimately agree?

17. What does Rocky do to train? What is part of his routine? Why? How does the non-diegetic/background score change in this montage?

18. What is Paulie’s internal conflict? What does he say that is offensive, and what does Rocky say is Paulie’s problem?

19. What is Apollo more concerned with about the fight? How is this captured cinematically?

20. How does Adrian change in appearance and behavior? What diegetic song plays when Adrian confronts Paulie? How is this song ironic?

21. How does the non-diegetic/background score change as Rocky’s training continues? Also, what is shown in montage?

22. Why is Rocky filmed via low angle and slow motion in this training montage? How is he indirectly characterized by these choices?

23. How are the shots in the next scene juxtaposed? How is Rocky filmed in the arena before the fight? Why?

24. What does Rocky realize? What does he want to accomplish with this fight? Why?

25. What does Apollo Creed wear for his costume for the entrance to the fight? Why? How is he indirectly characterized by this choice?

26. What role do the announcers provide for the fight and the film? Why?

27. When, how, and why does Apollo Creed become a dynamic character? How does he begin to take the fight and Rocky seriously?

28. What is shown through the montage of the fight? How do people react to the fight (e.g. Adrian), and what happens throughout it? How does the nondiegetic/background score build and change?

29. What injuries do both Rocky and Apollo receive, and how are both indirectly characterized by their performances in the fight? What do they say to each other? Why?

30. How is the outcome of the fight a victory for Rocky?

POST FILM THEMATIC QUESTIONS:

31. Rocky is one of the most successful film franchises and has grossed over a billion dollars in sales. What do you attribute to its success? Why?

23. Some consider Rocky to be one of the best sports films and American films of all time. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

33. What type of character archetype is Rocky Balboa? How do viewers relate to his conflict? What fairy tale does Rocky allude to? How?