SATYAJIT RAY: AS WE SEE HIM TODAY

SURVEYED
Questionnaire 1: *Pather Panchali*

**NAME ________________________   ID ________________________**

**Why this Questionnaire?**
"Satyajit Ray: As we see him today" comprising a series of questionnaires will try and analyze the mindset that today’s people have towards Ray’s movies. This series of questionnaire hopes to create a perception, a generalization that Ray’s movie have on its viewers.

**Facts - Pather Panchali**  
**Release Date** 26 August 1955 (First movie Of Satyajit Ray)  
**Writers/Screenplay** Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay  
**Major Achievements**  
1956 Cannes Film Festival, award for Best Human Document  
1956 Golden Gate Awards, award for Best Director and Best Picture  
Rated as one of the best 100 films of all time by the Time Magazine in 2005.

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**Q1. Is this image (Image 1) emotionally challenging OR does this image talk to you?**

YES [ ] NO, it is just an image [ ]

**RELEVANCE** – Image 1, I believe is not just the cover photo of Pather Panchali, but is the symbolic representation of India, a country whose majority of population is rural, curious and anxious of what the world beyond their homes hold for them.

**Q2. What does the character in the image (Image 1) conveys to you? (Tick Any Number of Option)**

Defiance [ ] Curiosity [ ] Innocence [ ]

Poverty/Under-nourished [ ] Life at its simplest and purest form [ ]

Don’t give it a thought; he is just an actor posing for a shoot [ ]

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Sidharth Kumar  
Satyajit Ray: As we see him today
Relevance - I believe that this image leaves a mark on one’s mind; you just simply can’t ignore it. Be it the innocence in the child’s eye, his curious looks, his ruffled hair, it just simply gets into one’s mind. By this question I was trying to gauge the mindset of a person, if he answers with multiple positive answer choice then definitely the director has succeeded.

Comments:

Q3. What can you say about the time when this shot (Image 1) was taken?


Could be any Time period  [ ]

RELEVANCE – I believe that this image is timeless, for the period of 1950s it represented the nascent India and for now it represents the emerging India.

Q4. Did you ever while watching the movie feel that if you had known the language Bengali then you would have liked/enjoyed the movie more?

Yes  [ ]  No  [ ]

RELEVANCE – If the answer was a yes then I believe the language was a barrier in letting the thoughts of the director conveyed to the audience. It is obvious that a more familiar language is more desirable but personally I think that the language is just one of the many aspects of the movie and it should not be a deciding factor in rating a movie.

Q5. There is a very vital sequence involving the passing of a train in the movie ‘Pather Panchali’. It’s a complete 4 minute sequence that appears to be like any other section but very intelligently sets the tone of the movie and surprisingly of the entire trilogy. The sequence begins with Durga getting curious of an approaching sound, and ends with Apu chasing a moving train. The scene very cleverly establishes the nature of the character Apu as well proves his dominance; indirectly it’s like passing the baton from Durga to Apu. Describe this sequence of the movie (Can choose more than one, If the message is not clearly conveyed then please watch the movie Pather Panchali from 1:11:01 to 1:14:35):

Simple yet intriguing  [ ]  Very ordinary  [ ]

Great Background music (especially the high pitch sound of the approaching train)  [ ]
Apu’s nature on the very forefront as the new inquisitive man

Apu the man of trains and no more of plough and carts

Loving relationship between Apu and his sister Durga

Scene rightly manages to depict the emergence of the character of Apu

Comments:

______________________________

______________________________

RELEVANCE – Critics as well as the masses have very much appreciated the train sequence of Pather Panchali. It surely is one of the defining moments of the movie. If you really get into this movie then surely you will feel that the train sequence tells you more than what it shows.

If you have really seen the movie and not just casually passed through it, then you would know that the sequence sets the tone of the entire trilogy. It sets the mood of the movie; it makes you believe that the rural child will grow up to become the future face of the country.

Q6. One of the most beautiful scenes in the film is the onset of the monsoon bringing hope, joy and a blend of new life. The first rain drops on the shining bald plate of an angler, the water hyacinths in the pond, and the trees in the field. The momentum slowly builds drawing Durga to her dance in the rain. Describe the scene by checking amongst the following options:

Musical  ❑  Realistic  ❑  Divine  ❑
Unreal  ❑  Nothing great about it  ❑

Comments:

______________________________

______________________________

RELEVANCE – Music does not necessarily have to be in the form of a song, this is what this scene is all about. This scene depicts monsoon in the purest and the simplest form. This question gauges how sensitive a person is, it tells you how he perceives nature.
Q7. Consider you have seen the movie *Pather Panchali*; now imagine this movie being remade today in Bollywood/Hollywood with the best of crew, would you be interested in spending a hundred rupees in watching the remake.

Yes ☐ NO ☐

**RELEVANCE** – This is a very simple question that tells in very straight terms, how a person feels about the movie *Pather Panchali*.

Q8. Check from the options which you think best defines the movie:

- Director’s ingenuity and creativity ☐ Strong Script ☐
- Powerful Performances ☐ an Absolute Classic ☐
- Hyped up Movie ☐

Comments:__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

**RELEVANCE** - I believe that the movie is a perfect blend of the director’s creative work, a strong script and powerful performances that makes it into an absolute classic. This question will tell how a person feels about the movie.

Your Comments on the movie *Pather Panchali*:

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________
Questionnaire 2: Aprajito, Apu Sansar

Q1 How can you best describe “Aprajito”, rate the following options accordingly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ans</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother-son relationship of love and affection</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apu’s growth into the new modern man</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apu’s ignorance towards his mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RELEVANCE - This question tries to see the mindset of the viewer, how he perceives the movie, what is the central theme of the movie?

Q2 How can you best describe Apu, rate the following options accordingly:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ans</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defiant and questioning (Chooses to study along with following priesthood)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intelligent and hardworking (Works hard at school)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiz-kid (Chooses science over arts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modest and humble (His general prevalent demeanor)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrogant and insensitive (leaves his mother alone in the village)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RELEVANCE – This question tries to gauge how the viewer feels about Apu. Apu I believe is a blend of all the above mentioned traits. Now the question that the above question tries to answer is that what is that what percent of people feel what about Apu.

Q3 “In a sequence - Sarbajaya is sitting leaning against a tree outside her house, awaiting Apu’s return. A train passes but she does not react, as she knows Apu is not on this train. Next, we see her sitting in the verandah of the house, expressionless. Suddenly, she hears Apu calling her. She is hallucinating. Hoping that Apu has returned, she drags herself out. As she stands looking for Apu, she sees a group of fireflies swirling by the pond.” (http://www.satyajitrays.org/films/aparaji.htm ). What does the fireflies in the above described scene signify?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ans</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beauty and the remoteness of nature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portends bad times: death of Apu’s mother</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No significance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glimmer of hope</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*trivia...*

Filming of this scene posed a technical challenge, as even the fastest available film stock could not capture the light emitted by the fireflies. Ray and his crew overcame the problem with an indigenous solution. Ray recounts in his *My Years with Apu*, "... We chose the toughest members of our crew, had them dressed up in black shirt and trousers and let each of them carry a flashlight bulb and a length of wire and a battery. The bulbs were held aloft in their right hands while they illustrated the swirling movements of fireflies in a dance, alternately connecting and disconnecting the wire to the bulbs ..."

**RELEVANCE** – This is a very aesthetically shot sequence of the movie Aparajito. This scene as the trivia says was a really difficult scene to capture. This scene very poetically depicts the traumatic state of Sarobjaya who is lamenting in the memory of her son.

**Q4** Do you find the title of the movie “Aparajito” well justified, if yes then who do you think remains unvanquished in the movie?

**AnS**

- Apu ☐  
- Apu’s Mother ☐  
- Time ☐  
- Death ☐

**RELEVANCE** – This question is a perspective based question, how the viewer sees the entire film on a whole.

**Q4** Check from the options which you think best defines the movie “Apu Sansar”:

- Director’s ingenuity and creativity ☐
- Strong Script ☐
- Powerful Performances ☐
- Absolute Classic ☐
- Hyped up Movie ☐

**Comments:**

______________________________

______________________________

**RELEVANCE** – Just like the movie Pather panchali I believe this movie is also a perfect blend of the director’s creative work, a strong script and powerful performances that makes it into an absolute classic. This question will tell how a person feels about the movie.
Q5. Consider you have seen the movie “Apu Sansar”; now imagine this movie being remade today in Bollywood/Hollywood with the best of crew, would you be interested in spending a hundred rupees in watching the remake.

Yes ☐ NO ☐

RELEVANCE – This is a very simple question that tells in very straight terms, how a person feels about the movie Aparajito.

Comments on the movie

Aparajito: __________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

Apu Sansar: __________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________

__________________________________________
Questionnaire 3: Apu Trilogy

Q1 Why Do you think Satyajit Ray made the trilogy: (Choose 1)

Ans  

Satisfy his creative urges
Show new horizons to Indian cinema
Rightly depict India on the screen

Comments:

RELEVANCE – This I believe is a very critical question; this question directly tells us what the viewer’s perspective is towards Satyajit Ray, the creator of Apu Trilogy.

Q2 Rate the three movies of the trilogy on the following parameters (out of 10):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pather Panchali</th>
<th>Aparajito</th>
<th>Apu Sansar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enlightenment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical Quotient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aesthetic* Quotient</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Concerning or characterized by an appreciation of beauty or good taste

Comments:

RELEVANCE - The components that have to be rated in the above columns are the most essential component of any movie, the above table helps in comparing the three movies of the trilogy on those important components.

Q3 after watching the “Apu Trilogy” what is the first word that comes to your mind. Choose from the following options:

HOPE
TRAGEDY
LIFE
BEAUTY
CRAP
Sidharth Kumar

Satyajit Ray: As we see him today

RELEVANCE – It’s all in that one word!!

Q4 Does the three images in any sense give you the indication that all of them represent the same human?

YES [ ] NO [ ]

Q5 Do you find any similarity in the three images?

YES [ ] NO [ ]

Q6 If your answer was YES in Q5 or Q6 then what do you think is the binding factor in the three images:-

Curiosity [ ]

Innocence [ ]

Defiance [ ]

[ ]

Your Comments on the Trilogy:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
ANALYSIS – Questionnaire 1

- Is this image (Image 1) emotionally challenging OR does this image talk to you?

- What does the character in the image (Image 1) conveys to you?

- What can you say about the time when this shot (Image 1) was taken?

- Did you ever while watching the movie feel that if you had known the language Bengali then you would have liked/enjoyed the movie more?

- One of the most beautiful scenes in the film is the onset of the monsoon bringing hope, joy and a blend of new life. The first rain drops on the shining bald plate of an angler, the water hyacinths in the pond, and the trees in the field. The momentum slowly builds drawing Durga to her dance in the rain. Describe the scene by checking amongst the following options:
There is a very vital sequence involving the passing of a train in the movie ‘Pather Panchali’. It’s a complete 4 minute sequence that appears to be like any other section but very intelligently sets the tone of the movie and surprisingly of the entire trilogy. The sequence begins with Durga getting curious of an approaching sound, and ends with Apu chasing a moving train. The scene very cleverly establishes the nature of the character Apu as well proves his dominance; indirectly it’s like passing the baton from Durga to Apu.

Consider you have seen the movie Pather Panchali; now imagine this movie being remade today in Bollywood/Hollywood with the best of crew, would you be interested in spending a hundred rupees in watching the remake?

Check from the options which you think best defines the movie
Analysis – Questionnaire 2

• How can you best describe “Aparajito”, rate the following options accordingly:

  Mother-son relationship of love and affection 1(2) 2(2) 3(2)
  Apu’s growth into the new modern man 1(4) 2(1) 3(1)
  Apu’s ignorance towards his mother 1(1) 2(3) 3(2)

• How can you best describe Apu, rate the following options accordingly:

  Defiant and questioning 1(2) 2(2) 3(2) 4(2) 5(2)
  Intelligent and hardworking 1(4) 2(2) 3(1) 4(0) 5(1)
  Whiz-kid 1(2) 2(2) 3(2) 4(2) 5(2)
  Modest and humble 1(4) 2(2) 3(1) 4(1) 5(0)
  Arrogant and insensitive 1(0) 2(2) 3(2) 4(2) 5(4)

• Do you find the title of the movie “Aparajito” well justified, if yes then who do you think remains unvanquished in the movie?

  
  ![Pie chart showing Apu's Mother 33%, Apu 11%, Life 22%, and Death 34%]

ANALYSIS – Questionnaire 3

• Why Do you think Satyajit Ray made the trilogy: (Choose 1)

  
  ![Pie chart showing Rightly depict India on the screen 40%, Show new horizons to Indian cinema 20%, Satisfy his creative urges 40%, and Show new horizons to Indian cinema 50%]
• Rate the three movies of the trilogy on the following parameters (out of 10):

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Pather Panchali</th>
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<th>Apu Sansar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entertainment</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enlightenment</strong></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Musical Quotient</strong></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em><em>Aesthetic</em> Quotient</em>*</td>
<td>8.5</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Concerning or characterized by an appreciation of beauty or good taste

**SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS**

*Regarding Image1-*

• “This image pictures a person who is seeing something new and is fascinated by the view”

*Regarding the Train Sequence* –

• “Truly speaking the sequence was too long but still it managed to convey the character of Apu and rightly depicted the love between Apu and his sister”
• “The scene shows that how anything that is curious can become the main theme of the film”

*Regarding the Rain Sequence* –

• “A child dancing in the rain can’t be unreal, the scene was important for the subsequent scenes”
• “The Scene shows that how one can find joy in the smallest of things”
• “There is nothing like the first drops of rain falling on your face”

*Regarding Aparajito* –

• “The movie was basically showing transformation of a son, how a person changes with time and need”

*Regarding the Apu Trilogy* –

• “Apu trilogy was a realistic series and was a path breaker for larger than life kind of movies.”
• “The trilogy proved that good movies can be made with modest artists and budget and also established the importance of powerful script”
• “Apu trilogy is all about hope”