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### The Graduate

Benjamin Braddock, known as Dustin Hoffman is an American actor and filmmaker. Many people described him as a “heartbreakingly human” because of how emotionally vulnerable he can be as a character and in real life, too. *The Graduate* is a rom-com film from 1967 directed by Mike Nichols and written by Buck Henry and Calder Willingham. We can assume what may happen in this film based on the cover, which shows Benjamin in the background and a woman pulling her stockings. Benjamin is a recent graduate from college that doesn’t know what to do next, which shows throughout the whole film. Everyone always looks up to Benjamin and asks how he’s doing. They think he is on the right track in life and tell him to keep on going so that he will be successful.

The film begins when Benjamin was on his way home from his college graduation. Usually when people go on airplanes, they dress more comfortably. The way that this scene was taken at a “medium-close up”, we were able to notice a bit of Benjamin’s white collar shirt behind the seats. The lighting shot is called the “sidelight” meaning that the light comes side parallel to the actor. Benjamin held a serious straight face the whole ride, the lighting in this scene created an intense feeling towards us as audience. When he got off the plane, they shot at an “establishing angle” using “soft light”. There was only a bit of shadow, the point was to focus on Benjamin and the way he was posing with his back straight and the same serious face. Back at home, Benjamin was having a reflection upon himself and he looked unhappy. Benjamin and his

parents were all dressed professionally. The way they're dressed at this house party serves a high status and professionalism. When they went to the backyard, we can see the background of the pool is blurred while it focuses on Mr. McGuire and Benjamin as they talk about something important. Based on the interior and exterior of his house, we know that they're a wealthy family.

The scene when Ms. Robinson "invited" Benjamin into her house, from her voice you can sense that there's a motive behind all of this like going up to his room, making him drive her home, convincing him into her house and to stay until her husband is home. As she checks herself with a small mirror, the angle portrays at a further and lower to accentuate her legs and fur coat jacket. She wears a silver dress with black sheer detailing over it paired with big shiny silver earrings, hair in a big style bun which gave a classy look and to finish off her makeup added an edgy vibe. As Benjamin was planning to leave and moved further away, the camera shot at an angle where we can see the back of Benjamin's head as he's talking to Ms. Robinson. They purposely angle this way for us to see the stockings she was wearing. The 1960s was popular for stockings and tights and known as the wild and colorful period for hosiery. Ms. Robinson had on a cheetah print strapless bra. Lingerie fashion helped women at the time to feel feminine and show off their silhouette just like how the corset enhanced one's waist. This was influencing the relationship between a grown woman and graduate student that they were going to be having an affair.

Benjamin is usually wearing his typical outfits that are put together and professional. He's always in collar shirts, suit, and khaki pants. He wore a grey suit with a black tie. During one scene, we found it unique how he incorporated more color by wearing a tan blazer coat, blue collar, navy brown stripes tie, black khakis, belt, and gold watch. Swimming seems to be a hit

sport at the time and luckily for him he had his own swimming pool. He wears a white gray with blue tint men's swimming trunks and black sunglasses. Ms. Robinson wore a cheetah/leopard print trench coat with a black long sleeve shirt with an animal print skirt. Most of the time when they're at the hotel the scene would always show off the bras she is wearing. For example, the nude black lace bra was different from the first pattern one because the lace added a girly touch and as for the plain white bra it showed simplicity.

In the middle of the movie, Benjamin and Mrs. Robinson are in bed, after doing this all summer Benjamin wants to change things up by indulging in some conversation with Mrs. Robinson. In this scene the audience gets an insight to who Mrs. Robinson is. Benjamin asks her to start a conversation about any topic, Mrs. Robinson chose art, yet she claims to not know anything about the topic. They then begin to talk about her husband, we learn that Mrs. Robinson does not love her husband, she only married Mr. Robinson because she was pregnant with Elaine. Benjamin was curious as to how it all began between her and Mr. Robinson. She states they met in college, Mr. Robinson was studying law and she was majoring in art. Benjamin states "I guess you kind of lost interest over the years then". This scene teaches us as the audience that Mrs. Robinson is not content with her life, she desires more than her marriage and family can give her. The wardrobe that Mrs. Robinson wears in this film is effective for her character. She mainly wears black, but there is always a pop of animal print. For example, Mrs. Robinson's lingerie throughout the film is leopard print, which makes her character fierce and sexy. The first scene we see Mrs. Robinson's lingerie is when she brings Benjamin up to Elaine's room and has him unzip her dress. She is wearing a leopard print bra and skirt slip. In nature, a leopard goes after prey, the way Mrs. Robinson goes after Ben.

The costuming in the film demonstrates what we know about dress practices of the 1960's. For one, we see a lot of leopard print. In the 1960's, spotted animal print was produced both with real and faux fur. Leopard jackets were really popular, after it was seen on the first lady: Jacklyn Kennedy. In 1962, Jackie Kennedy wore an Oleg Cassini leopard print jacket. Cassini stated that Kennedy wore the jacket because those looks had not been seen in a long time. Every woman in America looked towards Jackie Kennedy for fashion inspiration, it was known as the "Jackie look". Mrs. Robinson's use of leopard print represents her fierceness throughout the film. Another 1960's trend we observe in the film is knee high boots, which are seen on Elaine. A lot of young girls were breaking away with women's traditional wear, and wearing mini dresses paired with knee high boots to make up for the part of their body that was uncovered by the garment. Brands like Balenciaga and Yves Saint Laurent included these boots in their fall collections in the 1960's. The knee high boot was a fashion statement, and we see this in the film on Elaine, she is wearing a mini black bottom paired with a trench coat and brown knee high boots.