

## The Middle of the World Discussion Guide

1. Rarely do you have a shot of an isolated actor in *The Middle of the World*. Amorim wanted to create a sensation that the family was always watching each other. He did not want glamorize the characters, but instead wanted the stark reality to shine through. Discuss other techniques he used to do this
2. What is Romao's dream? For what does he have his family endure these hardships? Why is he so insistent on 200 reais? How is his dream similar or dissimilar from the American dream?
3. *The Middle of the World* is Vicente Amorim's first film after being an associate director an extraordinary 23 times. What are the challenges a first time director might face?
4. Amorim storyboarded almost 40% of the film (which is a lot). The director of *Raja*, Jacques Doillon, did not do a single story board and offered no stage direction at all. Contrast the two approaches.
5. Amorim was inspired by great directors of the classic Western such as John Ford and Sergio Leone. How does *The Middle of the World* remind you of a Western?
6. Amorim draws a parallel between the characters in the film and film itself by saying that Romao (the father) was the director and Rose (the mother) the producer. How did this translate in the movie?
7. *The Middle of the World* has been described as a road movie. What other road movies have you seen and how might this film fit into that classification?