

**Film guide**

**Moonlight**

US | 2016 | Cert. 15 | 111 mins  
 Director: Barry Jenkins

This coming-of-age story tells the story of Chiron, a young black man growing up lonely and isolated in an impoverished area of Miami. Sidelined by his drug-addicted mother, he finds an unlikely father figure in Juan, a local dealer. As he grows older, Chiron struggles with his identity and sexuality in this powerful, hugely affecting drama, centred on three defining chapters in his life.



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**You will like this film if you liked**

Boyhood (2014, 15)



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**Watch next**

Dear White People (2014, 15)



New Black Film Collective © (2014) All rights reserved.

**Talk about it**

This film is about a young black man growing up in a poor area of an American city. Based on other films you have seen, what expectations do you have about its main character, and the sort of film this may be?

**Discussion points**

- Chiron is a character of few words. Why is this? How do the three actors use body language to communicate Chiron’s emotions to the audience? Why is he reluctant to make eye contact with people?
- Did anything about the Miami setting surprise you, compared to its party image in popular culture? How does the saturated colour capture the image of the city the filmmakers are trying to convey?
- What is the significance of Juan? How is his influence felt over the entire film, despite the fact he is only present in the first chapter?
- Several key sequences take place on the beach, or near the ocean. Why do you think the filmmakers centred so much of the film around this location?
- Did anything about Chiron in the final chapter surprise you? To what extent do you think he is being true to “himself” before and after his reunion with Kevin? What did you make of his various nicknames?

**Write about it**

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs’ website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it’s similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

**Extension Activities**

What does the future hold for Chiron? As a piece of creative writing, write the next chapter in his life, set a few years after the film concludes. How has he changed? What are his relationships like with those around him?