

The Plot

Scene Index	5
Exposition	15
Gang Pressure on Thao	21
Hero to the Neighborhood	25
Painful Self-Recognition	29
Teaching Thao (How) to Become a Man	33
Escalating Violence	39
Walt's Death	42

Analysis and Interpretation

Narrative Structure	48
Setting	50
Characters	54
Walt Kowalski	54
Thao and the Hmong Community (Sue, Phong, Smokie and Spider)	61
Father Janovich	70
Themes	72
Racism in a Multicultural Society	72
(Gun) Violence	77
Concepts of Masculinity	80
Generation Gaps	85
Guilt and Redemption	90
The Ambiguity of Belonging	92
Symbols and Motifs	96
Cinematic Devices	100
Camera	100
Music and Lighting	104

Fast Facts

Outline 1: Structure	110
Outline 2: Setting	111
Outline 3: Walt Kowalski	112
Outline 4: Thao	113
Outline 5: Multicultural Society	114
Outline 6: The Ambiguity of Belonging	115
Outline 7: Symbols and Motifs	116
Outline 8: Cinematic Devices	117

Model Tasks and Answers

1. Walt and Thao	120
2. Walt and his Family	123
3. Portrayal of the Hmong Community	126
4. Ambiguous Identities	129
5. Guilt and Redemption	132
6. Language	134
7. <i>Gran Torino</i> – A Portrait of Contemporary America? . . .	136
8. <i>Gran Torino</i> and Tom Franklin’s Novel <i>Crooked Letter</i> , <i>Crooked Letter</i>	138
Bibliography	141
Index	143