Lean On Me

1. At the beginning of the movie how would you describe the school and Joe Clark's class?
2. In what ways has it changed by 1987? How could such a change take place?
3. In your opinion (detailed with facts from the movie) why do they bring Joe Clark back to Eastside

High?

1. Why does Joe Clark accept the job?
2. Why is he so hard on the staff when he returns to the school?
3. Why does Joe Clark change the football coach?
4. Was it fair for Joe Clark to kick all those students out of school? Explain why or why not.
5. According to Joe Clark, who is responsible for each student's education?
6. Who is Thomas Samms? How does Mr. Clark treat Thomas Samms? Does the treatment seem

fair? Do some students need to be treated like Samms?

1. How does the music teacher react when Mr. Clark interupts her class? How might it have been

necessary to cancel the concert?

1. Explain why Mr. Clark chains the doors shut?
2. Who does Mr. Clark blame for the students failing the exam? What method might there be

behind his madness? Is his blame too simplistic?

1. Why did Clark get arrested? How does the mayor get Mr. Clark to speak to the crowd?
2. How has the attitude of the students toward Mr. Clark changed since the beginning of the

movie?

15. Explain how would you feel about Joe Clark if you were ........

a. One of his students?

b. A teacher at his school?

c. A parent of a student in his school?

16. In the end, which students took control of their own lives and which students had their lives

controlled or had totally lost any control?

17. How might this movie support the idea that we control our own lives?

18. How might it be too much Hollywood and too little reality?