**Lars and the Real Girl**

Describe the different statuses, roles, and groups in Lars’ social structure. USE SPECIFIC TERMS FROM THE UNIT IN EVERY BOX! What function does the relationship serve for Lars and for them? How does it change?

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| Bianca |  |
| Gus |  |
| Karin |  |
| Dr. Dagmar Birman |  |
| Ms. Gruner |  |
| Margo |  |
| Church |  |
| Co-workers |  |
| Community |  |
| Parents |  |

Discussion Questions:

1. What two recent events in Lars’ life trigger and fuel his delusion? What past event explains his anxiety?
2. How is this anxiety reflected in the symbols that recur throughout the movie: the baby blanket he wears around his neck, the artificial flowers, the color pink, etc?
3. In many ways, Lars is still a child. What are the manifest and latent functions of dolls, stuffed animals, and action figures for children? Do we outgrow these needs when we become adults?
4. When Lars asks Gus how to know when you’ve become a man, what does he say? Do you agree – is there more to it than that?
5. Lars describes being touched, “Like a burn. Like when you go outside and your feet freeze and you come back in and then they thaw out.” Later, after bowling with Margo, he says he was hoping winter was over and she says, “No, it’s just a thaw. Winter isn’t over till Easter.” What happens next? Explain what this means for him.
6. Why does Bianca become important for the community? Why do they talk to her, care for her, involve her in their activities – even when Lars isn’t around?
7. Who is the “real” girl…Bianca? Karin? His mother? Margo? Other? All of the above?