

August: Osage County

*Here we go round the prickly pear
Prickly pear prickly pear
Here we go round the prickly pear
At five o'clock in the morning.¹*



is a 2013 American [tragicomedy film](#) directed by [John Wells](#). It was written by [Tracy Letts](#) and based on his [Pulitzer Prize-winning 2007 play of the same name](#) (Wikipedia).

Synopsis

The Weston Family

Place

Time

Setting

Plot



From Tracy Letts PDF – the play.

Well, Having picked up on Keith and BR having just seen this, I was intrigued with the movie and would love to have been in a drama class to have/see/be in a discussion on the play. What was really good about the movie I saw last night was, I didn't have a real clue of what it was all about – except it was about Osage County – and I know about this partial of land – and so do us Okies!.

¹ T.S. Elliot. (1936). *The Hollow Men*. New York, NY: HBJ Book.
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My suggestion is to sit down and watch it maybe on Netflix and just relax and let the movie 'take ahold of you' and tell the story. Like the Read's said "There are some real actors in this movie" and of course, seeing Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts in "an ensemble cast" is the first clue as to how 'good' this one will be.

If I had a class to discuss the movie my choice would be to cover/go over/review/list/lay out the sequence of the people as they come on the screen and as they leave the screen by pausing to reflect on how each one fit into the plot of the story.

Listing each person and exposing their 'spot' in the total story would be a pedagogical way of connecting the dots with intention and direction. This method rules out the normal questions about a movie most people will ask "What cha think 'bout it?" meaning going for the punch line to open the discussion.

*This movie is not one to ask the closing question first. **It is way too deep for that.***

Asking questions about what they did and how each played their part to the end leaves us with asking "Has anything like this been in my life?" Better: "Where have you seen this kind of family life?"



WIC 122, SAL 215, DEN 645

Not meant to be a spoiler but like maybe some of you, I have been on this road up through Wichita, Salina, and west to Denver. Jeanne, Biscuit, and I drove it August of 2009 going to Montana. The road west out of Pawhuska is about 40 miles to Highway 77 (now on I-35) to turn north to Wichita, 29 miles to the Kansas border, and on up to Salina turning west to Denver.

My guess is the lake used was Bluestem Lake and the open plains shots were at the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve.

Ask Ken Moore about Shidler and John about the county line at Sand Springs.

Anybody else have a story about Osage County?

Anyone know any ladies up there named Violet, Barbara, Mattie Fae, Ivy, or Jean?

