

*Winter's Bone* (d. Debra Granik, 2010)

To a question about his prose style in *Winter's Bone*, Daniel Woodrell responded:

I try to make sure I have a narration that isn't operating on some other level of comprehension from what the story's about. I was trying to make the language of the world I was writing about and the language and narration seem of a piece. I felt like I hit some kind of an older vein in myself, in my language and sensibility for that book. That's what it felt like to me. (John C. Tibbets, " 'Riddles Across the Sky': Daniel Woodrell Talks About *Winter's Bone*." *Literature Film Quarterly*, Vol. 39, Issue 1, p. 33.)

1. How does the viewer's experience of the narration in the film *Winter's Bone* differ from the reader's experience of the narration in the novel?
2. Discuss the scenes that were written for the film: the Auction House almost-confrontation, the Army recruiter conversation. What do these scenes contribute to the film?
3. Discuss the scenes that were modified for the film. For example, the scene at April's house in the film includes musicians playing together. What does the addition of music as an element in the film contribute?

Of the local musicians and music in the film, Granik says:

We had dues to pay [. . .]. If we were going to show difficult parts of Ozarks culture—and meth is a big thing—we felt we should show the positive side of the culture. An Ozarks woman who was kind of a local spokesperson would say to me that there's a difference between poverty and impoverishment. Poverty is a financial status. Impoverishment is multivalent—it means lots of things are lacking that bring life to a level that isn't sustainable. The Ozarks are not lacking in history and heritage that people feel very proud about—and a strong self-reliance. (James Bell, "Meth and the Maiden." *Sight and Sound* vol. 20, no. 10, 2010, p. 29.)

4. Usually, a film adaptation elides elements of the novel from which it was adapted. What elements are missing from the film *Winter's Bone*? Having read the book, why do you think the filmmakers made these choices?