

Screening Guide

As you screen *The Jazz Singer*, consider the following questions. Turn your screening guide in to me in class on Monday! You may type or write by hand, but there is no need for answers any longer than a short paragraph--try to focus your responses into pithy, succinct

1. Where, according to the film, is *The Jazz Singer* set? Why do you think the film is set here?
2. How does the film characterize, depict, or describe “jazz”? What does “jazz” mean to Jakie Rabinowitz/Jack Robin? To his father, Cantor Rabinowitz? Return to this question as you watch the entirety of the film. You might notice *where* Jakie is first caught singing “raggy time” tunes.
3. What elements distinguish Jakie from his father? What characterizes Jakie? How are Jakie and his father alike?
4. Notice the scenes when one moment cross-fades into another. What comparisons are being drawn? Return to this question as you watch the entirety of the film; in your response, point out as many of these moments as you can find, and suggest how we might read them.

