

# Reading intention

Our words mean so much more than what they represent on their face. This is especially true in complex social situations where emotions and motivations enter into play.

*Epistemics* refer to language we use to derive knowledge. *Pragmatics* refer to language we use to meet a particular end. When we communicate with feeling, we attempt to do both, sometimes badly (Wilutzky, 2015) .

For this activity, watch a scene from your favourite movie and consider the questions below. While doing so, pay particular attention to their implications for your day-to-day social encounters.



| Emotional analysis  |  |
|---|--|
| Describe the character's strongest emotions. What do they say to convey this?       |  |
| What non-verbal cues does the character allow to accompany these feelings?          |  |
| Epistemic analysis of emotions  | Pragmatic analysis of emotions                                   |
| What does the character want to <i>understand</i> or <i>learn</i> in these moments? | What does the character want to <i>achieve</i> in these moments? |
| How did the character's emotions help them do this?                                 | How did the character's emotions help them do this?              |
| How does this activity help your understanding of day-to-day social encounters?     |  |

Adapted from Tarau, 2023.