

Played and her  
current boyfriend  
have an

[Art & Culture](#), [Music](#)



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

played by Ethan Hawke, whom Olivia is separated from, portrays the cool, just “go with the flow” type of parent. He drifts in and out of their lives and refuses to ascend towards the responsibilities of adulthood until later on in the film. As one event rolls into another, the film’s point of view will embody these qualities as time unfolds. In the opening scene of the movie, there’s a close-up of Mason (age 6) lying on the ground, the camera is set in a crane shot directly above him.

It shows that he’s just a normal child just as any of us have been. We’re then introduced to Mason and his mother at school. Mason has recently been distracted during class and hasn’t been turning in his homework. As the two engage in the conversation, there is a close-up on Mason and we’re able to tell that he is wondering why there is a reason for everything that everyone else deems necessary to be done. The age of this movie definitely shows through the music and technology throughout the duration of the film.

Later on Olivia and her current boyfriend have an argument about how she never has time for him when reality is, she’s a full-time mother. Mason is awake in his room while the argument is taking place. In the following scene, Samantha is taunting her brother while singing Britney Spears’ “Oops I Did It Again”, and just like any other American family they have a little sibling fight. Later on, Olivia mentions moving to Houston, Texas to make a better living for herself and the kids. As we see the character’s leaving their home for the last time, in a long shot, it allows us to see the characters and all their belongings in front of their house. It looks as though we were standing right across the street watching them pack and leave.

When Samantha is on the phone with her friend, Mason's friend Tommy is on the other line and Samantha tells him Mason can't play due to the fact that they're moving. You can see the disappointment on Mason's face and I believe director Linklater intended for us to become emotionally invested at this point. As they