

**Key moment1: Opening Scene- The Car journey
(play from beginning)**

The scene opens with a close up shot of Ladybird and her mother asleep in a motel bed. The scene moves to the car journey home. Ladybird and her mother have been on a road-trip to visit prospective colleges for Ladybird next year. They have listened to a tape of the book “The Grapes of Wrath” on their long journey. The mother and daughter share an emotional moment in their reaction to the ending of the story. This moment quickly turns to bickering regarding Ladybirds choice of college. Ladybird wants to go to college on the east coast to experience a more cultured life. Her mother Marion points out that the family does not have the financial capability of supporting this. The bickering descends into a fight and at the end of the scene Ladybird dramatically throws herself out of the moving car to her mothers horror.



Christine ‘Lady Bird’ McPherson: I hate California, I want to go to the East Coast. I want to go where culture is like New York.

Marion McPherson: How in the world did I raise such a snob?

Christine ‘Lady Bird’ McPherson: Or at least Connecticut or New Hampshire where writers live in the woods.

Marion McPherson: You wouldn’t get into those schools anyway.

Christine ‘Lady Bird’ McPherson: Mom!

Marion McPherson: You should just go to City College. You know, with your work ethic just go to City College and then to jail and then back to City College and then maybe you’d learn to pull yourself up and not expect everybody to do everything.

[just then Christine opens the car door and jumps out as the car is moving]

**Key moment 2: Confrontation in Ladybirds bedroom
(20.44-22.15)**

This scene opens with Marian and Larry McPherson at the kitchen table discussing the fact that Larry has just been made redundant from his job and the financial strain this will put on the family. Ladybird comes home and goes straight to her room. Marian goes down to Ladybirds room and confronts her about how messy her bedroom is. The atmosphere between them immediately sours and they begin to argue about how her clothes will be ruined from being on the floor. Marian then reveals to Ladybird that Larry has lost his job and complains that Larry gets to be Mr Nice guy to Ladybird. Marian suggests that one of Ladybirds “wealthy friends” parents who might employ Larry, might not if his kids look like “trash”. Ladybird pleads questions her mother if she ever went to bed without cleaning her room. Marian reveals to Ladybird that her mother was an abusive alcoholic.



Marion: I don't know what your wealthy friends do

Ladybird: Why do you care what I do to my clothes

Marion closes the bedroom door

Marion: Your father doesn't have a job. He lost his job. Do you need him to come in here and explain that to you? Course he probably wouldn't anyway cos he's Mr. Nice guy and I always have to be the bad guy.

Key moment 3: Ladybird and Marian go browsing at thrift store (25.30- 25.30)

Ladybird and her mother Marian go shopping at the local thrift store to buy a dress to go to Danny's grandmothers Thanksgiving party. Marion is upset that Ladybird is not going to have her last Thanksgiving (before she leaves for college) with her family. Marion then complains that Ladybird seems tired and sluggish and they begin to bicker. Marion picks up a dress and holds it up and the two are momentarily distracted from their argument to confirm that they both love the dress.



[as they are dress shopping]

Marion McPherson: If you're tired, we can sit down.

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: I'm not tired.

Marion McPherson: Because you're dragging your feet.

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: You are so infuriating!

Marion McPherson: Will you stop yelling?

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: I'm not yelling.

[Marion picks a dress and holds it up]

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: Oh, it's perfect.

Marion McPherson: Do you love it?

**Key moment 4: Ladybird & Jenna play a prank
(40.37- 41.35)**

This scene opens at the Sister Joan's car in the teachers parking lot. Ladybird has planned a prank to get revenge on sister Joan for her citation over Jenna's short skirt. Jenna tells Ladybird that she is hungry and asks Ladybird where she lives. Ladybird replies with a lie, that she lived in the 40's (an upper middle class area of Sacramento). Ladybird goes on to describe Danny's grandmothers blue house. Jenna says that she lives in Granite Bay, a very wealthy area of Sacramento. Ladybird pretends to know Kyle really well to try get Jenna to go the deuce with her. Ladybird then goes on to say her mum made her get a job at the café to teach her about responsibility.



Jenna: Wait...where do you live?

Ladybird: O, the forties.

Jenna: That's where our starter house was. Which street?

Ladybird: Um... 44th. It's the three story blue one with the white shutters and the American flag out the front.

Jenna: Ya, I know that one. Do you wanna go over there right now to eat? I live in Granite Bay, otherwise Id say lets go there.

**Key moment 5: Ladybird and Marion talk
at the dressing rooms
(1.06.30- 1.08.25)**

Ladybird and Marion go shopping again, this time for a prom dress. Ladybird is unhappy with all of the dresses she picks out and complains one is too tight. Marion asks to meet Kyle but Ladybird says that they are no longer dating. Marion's brutal honesty is not appreciated by Ladybird who is very sensitive to her mother's criticism. Ladybird explains to her mother that she wants her mom to think she looks nice in the prom dress. Ladybird goes on to question if her mother even likes her as a person. Marion replies that she loves Ladybird and wants her to be the best version of herself.



Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: I just, I wish that you liked me.

Marion McPherson: Of course I love you.

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: But do you like me?

Marion McPherson: I want you to be the very best version of yourself that you can be.

Christine 'Lady Bird' McPherson: What if this is the best version?

**Key moment 6 : Final Scene- The Phone call home
(1.27.00- 1.30.00)**

Ladybird goes to a church service and is moved to tears by it. She comes outside and dials her home phone number, getting the answering machine. She leaves a message, saying that , “Its me, Christine”, clearly having grown up and dispensed with the name Ladybird that she had given herself. Christine says she is leaving this message for her mom and ask if she ever felt emotional driving in Sacramento. Christine talks about the first time she drove around their city and how much she loved it. The scene is cross cut between shots of Christine driving and her mother driving the same route. Christine tells her mother that she loves her and thanks her for everything she has done for her. Then she hangs up the phone and this is the end of the film.



Answering machine bleep

Larry: It's the McPherson family, please leave a message.

Ladybird: Hi mom and dad. Its me. Christine. It's the name you gave me, it's a good one. Dad, this is more for mom. Hey mom, did you feel emotional the first time you drove around Sacramento? I did and I wanted to tell you but we were not really talking when it happened. All those bends I've known my whole life, and stores and the whole thing. But I wanted to tell you- I love you. Thank you. Thank you.