

The Silent Era

(Pages 417-430 from the book *Looking at Movies*)

Topics for discussion:

What are the characteristics of the first silent movies?

How does the lack of sound define the narrative?

Why were Chaplin and Keaton popular?

What were their similarities and their differences?

What is slapstick comedy?

Selection of clips:

The Gold Rush (1925), by Charlie Chaplin

One Week (1920), by Buster Keaton

Sherlock Jr. (1924), by Buster Keaton