

Teacher Kit Materials

- Suggested “pre-activities” before students view the film
- “Talking Points” to promote interactive learning during the movie
- Post-film materials and activities, including debates, essay questions, group activities and individual assignments
- Internet resources to provide related assistance for lesson implementation and student research

**for comments,
questions or curriculum
support, contact us :**

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Why use the movie in your classroom?

Gerrit Wolfaardt grew up asking one question: What is truth? One “truth” he was taught is that black South Africans are a cancer in the land. Indoctrinated by white supremacist traditions, and under the eye of prominent members of the government and military, Gerrit is about to implement his “final solution” to do away with South Africa’s “black danger”, until he is challenged with a new truth. Based on true events, “Final Solution” tells the story of a Persecutor turned Peacemaker. But, in the turbulent last days of apartheid, there are those who doubt his transformation. Teachers can use this movie to discuss racism, oppression, change, reconciliation and forgiveness. Use this kit to suit learning goals. **Note:** “From One Blood” is a short documentary about the real Gerrit Wolfaardt and makes an appropriate supplement to the feature “Final Solution”.

Before you show the movie...

- Give each student a note card. Ask students to write the word “apartheid” at the top of one side of the card and “reconciliation” at the top of the other side of the card. In pairs, ask students to generate a definition for each of the words. Discuss. Introduce “Final Solution”, the story of Gerrit Wolfaardt who became a reconciled man.
- Post six poster-size sheets of paper on the walls - add one of the following titles to each: South Africa, apartheid, Nelson Mandela, Gerrit Wolfaardt, Afrikaans and Afrikaner People. Divide students into six small groups. Using the resource links provided, ask students to create a short list of facts based on their assigned topic. (If students have access to a computer lab, allow each group to find facts, provide printouts of information for students to be able to generate a list, or create a fact list for students - depending on time and resources). Ask students to briefly report what they know about their topic to the class.
- Briefly introduce students to a South African history timeline.

During the movie...

- Select “Play With Talking Points” on the DVD to effectively use the “Talking Points” discussion guide and handout.
- Use the “Talking Points” handout as a guide for an instructor-facilitated class discussion during the film.
- Print the “Talking Points” handout if you wish students to take notes during the discussion and film viewing.

tough topics is easy to use...

Step 1

Complete online registration at ToughTopics.com

Step 2

Use the web site or FAX to schedule film showings in your classroom

Step 3

Receive film prior to scheduled date, and show as many times as you need

Step 4

Return film and “showings report” in the postage-paid mailer

Step 5

Repeat steps 2 through 4 often... it’s free!

talking points

part 1

- 1** What is brotherly love? What does it mean for a school? A community? A country?
- 2** At a young age, Gerrit begins to explore this question: What is truth? What are the three truths he is taught to live by while growing up?
- 3** How might Hitler's influences on Gerrit affect his views? How do Hitler's views fit with Gerrit's upbringing?
- 4** Do all white people in South Africa seem to share Gerrit's views? How does what was happening in South Africa - even in the early 90s - compare to the time before and during the Civil Rights Movement in the United States?
- 5** What does Gerrit's new mentor believe about Jews and Blacks? How might he influence Gerrit?

part 2

- 6** Describe Gerrit's truth for which he is willing to sacrifice. How has he come to this truth?
- 7** What are the details of his "Final Solution"?
- 8** Why doesn't Gerrit want to read the book? How do you think Celeste's challenge to Gerrit to know the truth will affect him?

"final solution"

- 9** How deep is Gerrit's conviction about his race? How might Gerrit's meeting with the pastor and watching Celeste teach the children challenge his ideas?
- 10** Celeste sees Gerrit as a work in progress. Has Gerrit changed since they met? In what way? What will have to happen in order for his views to really change, to really see the other side of the coin?
- 11** How might the scriptures Gerrit read from the Bible challenge what he believes to be God's will?
- 12** Moses is angry. If you were Moses, why would you feel angry?
- 13** How are Moses' and Gerrit's paths similar and different?

Ending Qs

- **According to Pastor Lecato, what was the final solution? What had Gerrit originally thought it was? What did black African resistance group leaders think it was?**
- **What surprised you most in learning more about the history and relations between whites and blacks in South Africa? What new questions might you have?**

Debate Topics

- Taking into account current international issues (Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq, Jews and Palestinians in the Middle East, etc.), discuss the following statement: “The answer for racial tensions is for people to stay with those who are like them.”
- Gerrit told the angry black African mob that he was the one responsible for the previous night’s attack on their neighborhood. Discuss the idea that each of us is responsible for the crimes of our “tribe.”

Essay Questions

- Pastor Lecato talked about brotherly love. He also said that love is the most natural thing in the world. What is brotherly love? What does it mean at school? In your community? In your country? Discuss your ideas in context of the movie and your own observations and experiences.
- While telling the story of his youth, Gerrit said he was raised with three truths to live by. The story showed how his understanding of these truths took a 180 degree turn when he discovered everything he thought to be true was not. What truths do you know and live by? How might the themes in this movie challenge your beliefs?
- Describe the most profound or pivotal scene in the movie “Final Solution”. Write an essay discussing this scene, including its themes, look and feel. Describe why this scene was so significant in the film. How does the scene affect other events in the film? Discuss how the scene impacted you personally. What does it make you think of? Can you compare the themes in this scene to one in another work of art (book, painting, poem, play, film, song)? What message do you think is important to communicate from this scene? What will you take away from this scene in regards to your own life?

Group Projects & Individual Assignments

- Gerrit was deeply moved when he read “Cry, the Beloved Country”, a book that planted the seed for his transformation. Do one of the following: 1) Write a personal essay about a book you read that deeply touched and changed you. Include a review of the book and discuss its plot and themes. Did you identify with a character? How did the book contribute to your transformation? What passages and lessons were crucial to your change? OR, 2) Read “Cry, the Beloved Country”. Write a review of the book, discussing the plot and themes. Cite passages that might have moved Gerrit the most and explain. Describe how this particular book helped transform Gerrit. Describe the book’s effect on you.
- Create a PowerPoint presentation about Hitler and Nietzsche. Research each man’s views, life and the impact they each had on the world. Discuss the connection between the two. Describe how their ideas contributed to apartheid, slavery and oppression in different parts of the world. What groups today are still influenced by their ideas?
- Expand the group activity from the pre-viewing suggestions. In a team, work together to create a “Final Solution” website. Page topics should include the movie, South Africa, apartheid, Nelson Mandela, Gerrit Wolfaardt, Afrikaans, Afrikaner People and any other pages you deem relevant.

Teacher & Student Resources

South Africa - Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa

South Africa Profile & Timeline

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/africa/country_profiles/1071886.stm

Nelson Mandela

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nelson_Mandela

Afrikaans Language

<http://www.un.org/av/photo/subjects/apartheid.htm>

Cry, the Beloved Country

<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/cry/summary.html>

Hitler and Mein Kampf

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mein_Kampf

Gerrit Wolfaart

<http://www.fromoneblood.com/>

**For updated links,
revised lesson plans
and to
schedule more
showings, visit
toughtopics.com**