

3 SHORT FILMS - For Discussion (Ages 13+)

SYNOPSIS

Call Her Lotte [17 mins | German] – Set in 1930s Munich, a film drama about the power of friendship between two young women Maria and Lea. In the wake of the dictatorship of Hitler and the Nazis, their friendship is stronger than the terror and the fear.

One Day Crossing [25 mins | Hungarian] - Set in Hungary in 1944, it tells the story of a Jewish family pretending to be Christian in order to survive the brutality of the Nazi collaborators the Arrow Cross.

Silence [11 mins | English] - An animated film about the story of survivor Tana Ross, a child survivor of Theresienstadt (Terezin) who, hidden by her grandmother during the war, escaped Auschwitz.

PRE-VIEWING

1. Imagine you are a historical consultant working on one of these films. Based on the title and synopsis, in a small group make a list of questions to ask the filmmakers about their research and preparation.
2. From the film titles and synopses above, what questions do you have about the historical context of each? With others in your group, try to find answers to these questions. Your facilitator will direct you to some useful websites.
3. What do you think are the benefits and challenges of creating a 'short' film?

DURING VIEWING

1. What do you think is the filmmakers' purpose in telling this story?
2. How accurate is the portrayal of the historical period in which the film is set? How do you know?
3. What filmmaking techniques do you notice being used to influence the audience's response to the characters and events?

AFTER VIEWING

1. In *Silence*, the filmmakers use animation and survivor testimony to tell the story of Tana Ross. How does the animation let us see into Tana's mind in ways more 'realistic' film techniques wouldn't? How did you respond to the animation? If you had the chance, what questions would you ask Tana Ross and the filmmaker of *Silence*?

SPEAK OUT

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION THROUGH FILM

2. Read this article about the Arrow Cross in Hungary:

<http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005264>

Identify two or three key points that have deepened your understanding of the film *One Day Crossing*. If you had the chance, what questions would you ask the filmmaker of *One Day Crossing*?

3. The film *Call Her Lotte* was developed by filmmakers to promote ideas of friendship, courage and tolerance. The production team are exploring producing an interactive game based on the story. Read this article about their ideas:

<http://www.makinggames.biz/features/teaching-tolerance-and-civil-courage-through-game-and-film,8158.html>

What do you think are the opportunities and challenges of creating a 'game' about Holocaust Remembrance?