



Movies! Movies! Movies!

This is a list of films that teachers of Religious Education and Youth Workers may find useful if they are seeking to raise discussion with young people through the use of mainstream films. This list began as a bit of fun and has become a useful tool. It does not seek to be exhaustive: it is a stimulus to get people thinking. Where a certificate has been given this refers to the video/DVD release rather than the cinema classification.

There are many films and books in the North East Religious Learning Resources Centre that can give you help in this area. Everything from icebreakers; structured activities for groups based around a particular film; to a Lent Course! We also have academic papers and publications on the interface between film and faith should you be interested. Please browse the library [catalogue](#) for titles.

A list of all forthcoming movie releases at UK cinemas can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/films/comingsoon/diary.shtml>

For new releases and forthcoming titles on DVD see:

<http://www.dvdtimes.co.uk/releasedates.php>

<http://www.zetaminor.com/dvd/incoming.htm>

If you would like to challenge, complete or add any films or discussion points then please contact me at the following e-mail address:

enquiries@resourcescentreonline.co.uk

Karenza Passmore

November 2007

Acknowledgements:

- The Internet Movie Database from which some of these reviews have been taken: www.imdb.com
- Halliwells Film and Video Guide 2002, J Walker, HarperCollins*Entertainment*, 2001, from which some of these reviews have been taken.
- The British Board of Film Classification: www.bbfc.co.uk
- Lat Blaylock (ReToday Services)
- Bert Thomas (Carlisle Diocesan Education Adviser)
- Gavin Bainbridge (North East Religious Learning Resources Centre)



***2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968, Certificate U)**

Most of human evolution was inspired by aliens from the planet Jupiter who look like huge black monoliths. When one of these monoliths appears to some of our ape ancestors, they start to use tools, and invent war. The action of the film then jumps millions of years, to 2001, when a monolith is uncovered on the moon. An attempt by astronauts to visit Jupiter is severely compromised by HAL, their spaceship's deranged computer. The monolith/aliens are so powerful and enigmatic that they seem like gods: their shape is reminiscent of the stones of Stonehenge or Easter Island statues.

Discussion points:

- *Totemic objects*
- *Evolution*
- *New gods*

***21 Grams* (2004, Certificate 15)**

The lives of three people are drawn together when loving housewife Cristina Peck suffers the loss of her husband Michael and their two daughters, killed in a hit-and-run by born-again ex-con Jack Jordan. Paul Rivers, a college professor dying of heart failure, becomes the recipient of Michael's transplanted heart and is drawn to Cristina out of the debt of life owed to her husband. Their connection initiates change in the lives of all three, and through their experiences they will find hope, despair, and redemption.

Discussion Points:

- *Medical Ethics*
- *Redemption*
- *Fate/Fatalism*

***Ae Fond Kiss* (2004, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A Muslim boy tries to avoid a traditional arranged marriage to his cousin, partly because he has fallen in love with an Irish Catholic girl.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Arranged marriage*
- *Catholicism*

***After Life* (1998, Certificate PG)**

After they die, people are processed by bureaucratic counsellors who help them choose one memory from their life. This is the only memory they will be allowed to take with them into eternity, and is recreated by the counsellors in the form of a short film. Japanese with subtitles.

Discussion Points:

- *Afterlife*
- *Memory*

***Agnes of God* (1985, Certificate 15)**

At a convent, fragile, unearthly Sister Agnes gives birth (she says it's a virgin birth), but the child dies. The police are soon involved because of the death of the baby. However, the main conflict is between Mother Superior Miriam Ruth, who wants Agnes left alone, and Dr. Martha Livingston, a psychiatrist determined to help Agnes gain a stronger grasp on reality and uncover any wrongdoers. Summary written by Reid Gaegle.

Discussion Points:

- *Miracle birth?*
- *Religious experience*

AI (Artificial Intelligence) (2001, Certificate 12)

A science-fiction version of the story of Pinocchio or even Frankenstein, this 2001 offering from Steven Spielberg tells the story of David, a futuristic robot child who wants to be human. Such tales are bound to make the viewer think of what it means to be human: David seems to have everything a human needs, including religious feelings based around a statue in a fair-ground. The damaged refugee robots David meets hiding in a forest invite comparison with the Israelites in the wilderness, escaped African slaves or disabled people on the margins of society.

Discussion Points:

- *What it is to be human*
- *Love*
- *Idea of perfection*

Alien 3 (1992, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

After escaping from a hostile planet (*Aliens*), the ship carrying Ellen Ripley crashes onto a remote ore refinery inhabited by a self proclaimed 'prophet' and his apparently dysfunctional disciples. Whilst waiting for her employers to rescue her, Ripley discovers the horrifying reason for her crash: an alien stowaway. However, things are more complex than they seem.

Discussion Points:

- *Christ figure? View last 15 minutes for betrayal, temptation and crucifixion*
- *Sacrifice*

Almost An Angel (1990, Certificate PG)

Terry Dean is an electronics wizard and thief. After he is released from jail he attempts to save a little girl and is hit by a car. While in the hospital he dreams that God visits him, tells him he's an Angel and that he must start doing good things to make up for his past life. Not believing it at first, he soon becomes convinced he must be an Angel. Not having any Angelic power, he must use his own experiences and talents to spread good.

Discussion Points:

- *Nature and portrayal of religious experience*
- *Angels*
- *Miracles*
- *Disability and Equal Rights*

Amazing Grace (2006, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The story of William Wilberforce and his fight to abolish slavery. Starring Ioan Gruffudd, released to coincide with the 200th anniversary of Abolition. There is a useful website for the film, with all sorts of ideas for activities and discussion, at

www.amazinggracemovie.com.

Discussion Points:

- *Slavery*
- *Abolition*
- *Race*

Amen (2002, Certificate PG)

Kurt Gerstein is recruited into the SS during the opening years of the Second World War. He is asked to help with a "special project" involving fumigation of "vermin infested" areas behind the front lines. Gerstein develops Zyklon-B, a deadly chemical gas which he believes will be put to use killing rats, lice, and other disease-carrying creatures.

When he realizes that his invention will be used to kill people, he begins an emotional search of his Christian values. Ultimately he decides to expose the Holocaust by informing the Catholic Church. Summary written by Anthony Hughes (adapted).

Discussion points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Catholic Church*
- *Lutheran Church*
- *Crisis of Faith and Duty*

American Beauty (1999, Certificate 18)

Lester and Carolyn Burnham are, on the outside, a perfect husband and wife, in a perfect house, in a perfect neighbourhood. But inside, Lester is slipping deeper and deeper into a hopeless depression. He finally snaps when he becomes infatuated with one of his daughter's friends. Meanwhile, his daughter Jane is developing a happy friendship with a shy boy-next-door named Ricky who lives with a homophobic father.

Discussion Points:

- *A modern parable about the nature of grace in an imperfect world?*
- *The 'bag in the wind' scene – stunning. But do you agree with Ricky?*

American History X (1998, Certificate 18)

Venice Beach, California. Derek and Danny Vinyard, brothers, lose their father, get into the wrong hands and became powerful members of a Neo-Nazi gang. Following a vicious killing the elder brother is sent to prison where he reviews and reforms his beliefs. Once out of prison he seeks out his brother in order to save him from the life of hatred and crime that once united and inspired them both.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Racism*
- *Nazism*
- *Inheritance of all the above*

Amistad (1997, Certificate 15)

African slaves who escape their chains and kill the crew of a slave ship are tried in America for murder, while the ship's owners, the salvagers and the Spanish Queen claim them as their property. Summary from Halliwell's Film & Video Guide 2002.

Discussion Points:

- *Slavery*
- *Racism*
- *The struggle for human rights*

Anita & Me (2002, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The story of Meena, a Sikh girl growing up in the Black Country in the 1970s. Based on the novel by Meera Syal, the film shows Meena as trying to exist in the overlapping spaces between the local white culture and the world her parents have brought with them from India. Each 'side' meets the other with a combination of fascination, mistrust and ignorance.

Discussion points:

- *Immigration*
- *Clash of cultures*
- *Racial violence*

- *Sikhism*

The Apostle (1997, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

After he loses his church and beats his wife's lover unconscious with a baseball bat, a middle-aged preacher leaves Texas and goes to a small Louisiana town, where he starts a new church. Summary from Halliwell's Film & Video Guide 2002.

Discussion Points:

- *Religious Experience*
- *Moral Issues*
- *Contemporary Religion?*

Atlantis – The Lost Empire (2002, Certificate U)

1914. Milo Thatch works in a museum, obsessed by the idea of discovering the 'Shepherds Journal' which shows the way to the mythical city. His employer thinks he's mad and refuses to fund any expeditions. Enter a mysterious woman and Preston B. Whitmore, a rich old friend of Milo's grandfather. He provides Milo with a journal, submarine and crew. They travel through the Atlantic ocean, face legendary beasts and finally get to Atlantis. But all is not as it seems and Milo finds himself complicit in the potential destruction of all he admired.

Discussion Points:

- *Pilgrimage*
- *Holy Places*
- *Good and Evil*

Apocalypse Now (1979, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Roughly based on Joseph Conrad's novel *Heart Of Darkness*, this was one of the first of the multitude of Vietnam war movies to be made, though the production overrun led some to dub it 'Apocalypse Later'. We follow Captain Willard on his mission into Cambodia to assassinate a renegade Green Beret, Kurtz, who has set himself up as a God among a local tribe. As Willard travels, the search, the environment and the challenge of his mission begin to invade his mind.

Discussion Points:

- *Sacrifice*
- *Ritual*
- *Civilization*
- *Holy War?*
- *Colonialism and idolism*

Armageddon (1999, Certificate 12)

Due to a shuttle's unfortunate demise in outer space, NASA becomes aware of a doomsday asteroid that is on a collision course with Earth. It seems that the only way to knock it off course is to drill into its surface and detonate a nuclear weapon. But as NASA's resourceful team train the world's best drillers for the job, the social order of the world begins to break down as the information reaches the public and hysteria results. As high-ranking officials play politics, the drilling team face issues which may jeopardize humanity's last chance..

Discussion Points:

- *Altruism*
- *Selflessness*
- *Judgement*
- *Sacrifice*

Au Revoir les Enfants (1988, Certificate PG)

During WWII, in a Catholic boarding school in the French countryside, two boys become friends. One is a French boy, Julien Quintin, and the other is a Jewish boy, Jean Bonnet, who is being hidden from the Nazis by the friars who run the school. Based on a true story.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*

Awakenings (1990, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A new doctor finds himself with a ward full of comatose patients. The apparent lack of any hope of a cure disturbs him. When he finds a possible chemical cure he gets permission to try it on one of them. When the first patient awakes, he finds he is now an adult having gone into a coma in his early teens. The film then delights in the new awareness of the patients and then on the reactions of their relatives to the changes in the newly awakened.

Discussion Points:

- *Miracle?*
- *Wonder of life*
- *Medical Ethics*

Babe (1995, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Farmer Hoggett wins a runt piglet at a local fair and young Babe - as the piglet decides to call himself - befriends and learns about all the other creatures on the farm. He becomes special friends with one of the sheepdogs, Fly. With Fly's help, and Farmer Hoggett's intuition, Babe embarks on a career shepherding sheep with some surprising and spectacular results.

Discussion Points:

- *Afterlife*
- *Animal Rights*
- *Vocation*
- *Significance of Christmas*
- *Love and Sacrifice*

Babette's Feast (1987, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In 19th century Denmark, two adult sisters live in an isolated village with their father, who is the honoured pastor of a small Protestant church that is almost a sect unto itself. Although they each are presented with a real opportunity to leave the village, the sisters choose to stay with their father, to serve to him and their church. After some years, a French refugee, Babette, arrives at their door, begs them to take her in, and commits herself to work for them as maid/housekeeper/cook. Some time after their father dies, the sisters decide to hold a dinner to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his birth. Babette experiences unexpected good fortune and implores the sisters to allow her to take charge of the preparation of the meal. Although they are secretly concerned about what Babette, a Catholic and a foreigner, might do, the sisters allow her to go ahead. Babette then prepares the feast of a lifetime for the members of the tiny church and an important gentleman related to one of them. Summary written by Ed Cannon.

Discussion Points:

- *A parable about life?*
- *Community*
- *Communion*
- *Forgiveness*

The Beach (2000, Certificate 15)

Based on Alex Garland's novel which centres on a young drug-addicted traveller named Richard, an avid pop-culture buff with a particular love for video games and Vietnam War movies. While at a hotel in Bangkok, he finds a map left by his strange, whacked-out neighbour, who just committed suicide. The map supposedly leads to a legendary island paradise where some other wayward souls have settled.

Discussion Points:

- *Eden*
- *Hedonism*
- *Civilisation and morality*

Bedazzled (2000, Certificate 12)

Elliot Richards, a socially incompetent technical advisor working at a call-centre, has had a crush on Alison Gardner for nearly four years. On one difficult evening she ditches him. A beautiful woman appears and introduces herself as the Devil. She offers him a deal: seven wishes for him, his soul for her. Quickly, Elliot is convinced and accepts. But every wish fulfilled has massive disadvantages as well, and soon Elliot wants to get out of the contract.

Discussion Points:

- *Devil*
- *Good and Evil*
- *Faustian bargain*

Beetlejuice (1988, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The problem with being dead is that living people think they can come and live in your house. A charming (but dead) young couple call on the assistance of Beetlejuice, a maverick ghost. Much of the impact of the film comes from Tim Burton's bizarre ideas about the afterlife.

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Afterlife*
- *Ghosts*

Bend It Like Beckham (2002, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Comedy about bending the rules to reach your goal. *Bend It Like Beckham* explores the world of women's football, from kick-about in the park to free kicks in the Final. Set in Hounslow, West London and Hamburg, the film follows two 18 year olds with their hearts set on a future in professional soccer. Heart-stopping talent doesn't seem to be enough when your parents want you to hang up your football boots, find a nice boyfriend and learn to cook the perfect chapatti.

Discussion Points:

- *Sikhism*
- *Personal Search*
- *Stereotypes*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Feminism*
- *Prejudice*

Bernadette (1998, Certificate U)

(We have a range of film and other resources about Bernadette at NERLRC)

In 1857, an unemployed miller moves his family into grim lodgings; his wife takes in laundry. In February of 1858, at the Massabielle grotto, their 14-year old asthmatic, illiterate daughter, Bernadette, sees a light she later distinguishes as a beautiful young woman. The girl converses with the woman over the next few months. Crowds follow her and people are cured by the waters from a spring Bernadette has cleared. Secular authorities are threatened by the popular gatherings and subject the girl to police inquiry and medical review. The local monsignor is also sceptical, and then becomes Bernadette's champion. She maintains her forthright simplicity and untutored wisdom throughout. Summary written by [J Hailey](#).

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Revelation*
- *Religious experience*
- *Pilgrimage*

***Betty Blue* (1986, Certificate 18)**

Zorg lives a peaceful life, working maintaining a collection of beach-huts and writing in his spare time. One day Betty walks into his life, a young woman who is as beautiful as she is wild and unpredictable. After a dispute with Zorg's boss they leave, and later get jobs at a restaurant. Betty persuades Zorg to try and get his book published but it is rejected, which makes Betty fly into a rage. Suddenly Betty's wild manner starts to get out of control. Zorg sees the woman he loves slowly going insane. Can his love prevail even if it comes to the worst? Summary written by Mattias Pettersson.

Discussion Points:

- *Love*
- *Commitment*
- *Euthanasia*

***Bhaji on the Beach* (1993, Certificate 15)**

A group of women of Indian descent take a trip together from their home in Birmingham, to the beach resort of Blackpool. The women vary in ages from mid-teens to old, and initially have little in common. But the events of the day lead them to better mutual understanding and solidarity.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*
- *Gender*
- *Generations*

***Bicentennial Man* (1999, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Like Pinocchio, and David, the hero of Spielberg's film *AI*, Andrew, the robot hero of this film, longs to be human. Over 200 years he is upgraded and improved, and we witness his efforts to win the heart of his life-long love and to be accepted as a man.

Discussion Points:

- *What it means to be human*
- *Technology*
- *Love*
- *Death*

***Big Fish* (2003, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

This film follows the incredible life of Edward Bloom through a series of flashbacks that begin when his son, Will, visits him for the last time. Edward is dying of cancer, and Will hasn't spoken to him for years because he believes him to be a liar who never really cared for his family. As Edward and Will unfold the dying man's story and find the reality behind the myth, Will tries to understand who his father really was. (Summary written by Chris Makrozhopoulos - adapted)

Discussion Points:

- *Narrative theology*
- *Redemption*
- *Death*

***The Big Kahuna* (1999, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In a seedy hospitality suite in a Wichita hotel, three industrial lubricant salesmen wait for a wealthy potential buyer who will make them all rich, or at least more successful.

When it emerges that the youngest of the three is a committed Christian, the discussion opens out into areas of religion, ethics, life, death and friendship.

Discussion Points:

- *Friendship*
- *Families*
- *Evangelism*

***Billy Elliott* (2000, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Set against the background of the 1984 Miner's Strike, Billy Elliot is an 11-year-old boy who stumbles away from the boxing ring and onto the ballet floor. He faces many trials and triumphs as he strives to conquer his family's deep-set ways, inner conflict, and standing on his toes.

Discussion Points:

- *Gender stereotyping*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Family conflict*
- *Personal search*

***Black Robe* (1991, Certificate 15)**

In the 17th century a Jesuit priest and a young companion are escorted through the wilderness of Quebec by Algonquin Indians to find a distant mission in the dead of winter. The Jesuit experiences a spiritual journey while his young companion falls in love with the Algonquin chief's beautiful daughter underneath the imposing mountains.

Discussion Points:

- *Vocation*
- *Revelation*
- *Mission*

***Bowling for Columbine* (2002, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Michael Moore's documentary about the Columbine High School Massacre. Moore is a controversial, baseball-cap-wearing, self-appointed thorn in the side of authority in the USA.

Discussion Points:

- *Education*
- *Death*

- *Bereavement*
- *Adolescence*
- *Gun laws*
- *Violence*

***Boyz 'N the Hood* (1991, Certificate 15)**

For 'Hood' read 'neighbourhood'. The neighbourhood in question is South Central Los Angeles, a place which is not without its share of problems: there are too many guns and drugs, too much racism and too much crime. The director John Singleton was only 23 when he made the film, and the film itself has achieved cult status and spawned a number of copycat 'ghetto' movies. The cast, including Ice Cube, Cuba Gooding Jr. and Laurence Fishburne, have gone on to star in many hit films.

Discussion points:

- *Race*
- *Prejudice*
- *Violence*
- *Drugs*
- *Crime*

***Brassed Off* (1996, Certificate 15)**

In existence for a hundred years, Grimley Colliery Brass band is as old as the mine. But the miners are now deciding whether to fight to keep the pit open, and the future for town and band looks bleak. Although the arrival of flugelhorn player Gloria injects some life into the players, and bandleader Danny continues to exhort them to continue in the national competition, frictions and pressures are all too evident. Written by Jeremy Perkins.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*
- *Stereotypes*
- *Community*
- *Suicide*

***Braveheart* (1995, Certificate 15)**

A stirring three-hour Oscar-winning epic starring, and directed by, Mel Gibson. Gibson plays the thirteenth-century Scottish clan leader William Wallace, who forms a resistance movement against the English King, Edward Longshanks.

Discussion points:

- *Betrayal*
- *History*
- *Mythology*

***Brother Sun, Sister Moon* (1973, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The story of St Francis and the beginnings of the Franciscan order, directed by Franco Zeffirelli. Some parts of the film lapse into a kind of pseudo-hippy sopppiness, but the sharp outlines of the story are still present: Francis abandons his life as a prosperous libertine and takes to the fields, preaching the gospel and embarrassing everyone – including his own merchant father and even the Pope.

Discussion Points:

- *Vocation*
- *Monasticism*

- *Preaching*
- *Papacy*
- *Asceticism*
- *Poverty*

***Bruce Almighty* (2004, Certificate 12)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Television reporter, Bruce Nolan, is discontented with almost everything in life despite his popularity and the love of his girlfriend. At the end of the worst day of his life, Bruce angrily ridicules and rages against God who then responds. Appearing in human form God endows Bruce with divine powers and challenges him to do a better job.

Discussion Points:

- *God*
- *Miracle*
- *Prayer*
- *Problem of Evil*
- *Grace*
- *Forgiveness*

***The Butcher Boy* (1999, Certificate 15)**

Francie lives with his depressed mother and alcoholic father. He loves his family and promises his mother he will never let her die. When she attempts suicide Francie begins to spiral out of control in a world that mixes fantasy (the vision of Our Lady) and horror (the brutal killing of his vicious next door neighbour).

Discussion Points:

- *Religious Experience*

***Cabaret* (1972, Certificate 15)**

Set between the two world wars in Berlin, *Cabaret* is based on the autobiographical story *I am a camera* by the poet Christopher Isherwood. Sally Bowles is an apparently completely disinhibited night-club singer who befriends a young English teacher living in her apartment building. While the Weimar Republic flounders in sky-high inflation and unbridled hedonism, the Nazis are slowly gaining power.

Discussion points:

- *Anti-Semitism*
- *Fascism*
- *Friendship*

***Casino* (1995, Certificate 18)**

A depiction of the rise and fall of Sam 'Ace' Rothstein, a professional gambler who is put in charge of a Las Vegas casino by the Mafia, and Nicky Santoro, a rough housing mobster who ogles at the city's untapped potential. Seen through their eyes and told through their monologues, the details of mob involvement in the casinos of the 1970's and 80's are revealed. Ace is the smooth operator of the Tangiers casino, while Nicky, his boyhood friend, conspicuously shakes down the locals. Ace falls in love with a hustler, Ginger, only to be betrayed by her affair with Nicky and her clinging to her ex-husband, Lester Diamond.

Discussion Points:

- *Sin*
- *Redemption*
- *Hell*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Retribution*

Changing Lanes (2002, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

An attorney (Ben Affleck) in a rush to make a court appointment accidentally collides with an alcoholic insurance salesman (Samuel Jackson), who is also in a rush for a court appointment involving the custody of his children. The attorney leaves the scene of the accident, stranding the salesman, causing him to miss his custody hearing. During the post-crash discussion, the attorney accidentally drops the papers he needs to present in court. The judge gives him until the end of the day to present the papers and thus begins a cat and mouse game between the proponents. In the end, both come to new understanding of what is important and appear to be set in new ethical and moral directions. (Summary by John Sacksteder)

Discussion Points:

- *Professional Ethics*
- *Importance of the Individual*
- *Fate*

Chariots of Fire (1981, Certificate U)

The true story of two British track athletes who compete in the 1924 Summer Olympics. One is a devout Scottish missionary who runs for God, the other is a Jewish student at Cambridge who runs for fame and to escape prejudice.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Commitment*
- *Vocation*
- *Prejudice*

Chocolat (2000, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Single mother Vianne and her six-year-old daughter move to rural France and open a chocolate shop across the street from the local church at the start of Lent. The Mayor, who sees himself as the guardian of faith and tradition, wages open war in an attempt to run Vianne out of town but a transition begins to take place in people's hearts and minds which alters the community forever.

Discussion Points:

- *A Pauline parable of grace overcoming works?*
- *Wind/chocolate as the Holy Spirit?*
- *Healing*
- *Community*

The Chocolate War (1988, Certificate 15)

New boy at strict Catholic High School, Jerry Renault, is bullied into selling boxes of chocolates for the school's annual fund-raising event. The sadistic headmaster, Brother Leon, and 'The Vigils', a vicious gang of school thugs, make Jerry's life hell when he decides he won't be pushed around anymore. Summary written by Grant Hamilton.

Discussion Points:

- *Bullying*
- *Freedom*

Cinema Paradiso (1989, Certificate PG)

A famous film director returns home to a Sicilian village for the first time after almost 30 years. He reminisces about his childhood at the Cinema Paradiso where Alfredo, the projectionist, first brought about his love of films. He is also reminded of his lost teenage love, Elena, who he had to leave before he left for Rome. (Summary written by Graeme Roy)

Discussion Points:

- *Memory*
- *Storytelling*
- *Spiritual Formation*

City of Angels (1998, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Seth, an angel watching over Los Angeles, finds his job difficult when he falls in love with Maggie, a beautiful heart surgeon. She becomes interested in Seth, and soon his not-quite-mortal state seems a barrier rather than a gift. A choice must be made between celestial duty and earthly love. Summary written by Matthew C. Powell.

Discussion Points:

- *Angels*
- *Love*
- *The gift and cost of human freedom.*

City of Joy (1992, Certificate 15)

An American surgeon loses a young patient, quits the medical profession and goes to India to find himself. There he runs into a nun who is trying to establish a free clinic in a neighbourhood of untouchables. He resists the call back to medicine, but eventually begins helping them build the clinic, which angers the local "Godfather" who tries to stop the project by intimidation. Summary written by Ed Sutton.

Discussion Points:

- *Commitment*
- *Faith*
- *Community*

The City of the Lost Children (1995, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Krank who cannot dream, kidnaps young children to steal their dreams. One, a former whale hunter who is as strong as a horse, sets forth to search for Denree, his little brother who was kidnapped by Krank's men. Helped by young Miette, he soon arrives in La Cite des Enfants Perdus (The City of Lost Children). Subtitles.

Discussion Points:

- *What would it mean if you couldn't dream?*
- *What qualities might children have that adults may lack?*
- *What is the price and prize of friendship?*

A Civil Action (1998, Certificate 15)

Jan Schlichtmann, a tenacious lawyer, is addressed by a group of families. When investigating the seemingly non-profiting case, he finds it to be a major environmental issue: a leather production company could be responsible for several deadly cases of leukaemia, but also is the main employer for the area. Schlichtmann and his three colleagues set out to have the company forced to decontaminate the affected areas, and to sue for a major sum of compensation. But the lawyers of the leather company's mother company are not easy to get to, and soon Schlichtmann and his friends find themselves in a battle of mere survival.

Discussion Points:

- *Corporate responsibility (or the lack of it)*
- *Environmental and health issues*
- *Compensation culture*
- *Personal Search*
- *Ethical Choices*

The Color Purple (1985, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

This film follows the life of Celie, a young black girl growing up in the early 1900's. The first time we see Celie, she is 14, and pregnant by her father. We stay with her for the next 30 years of her tough life. Summary written by Colin Tinto.

Discussion Points:

- *Poverty*
- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*

Cool Hand Luke (1967, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Paul Newman plays Luke Jackson, an indefinable rebel caught vandalising parking meters who is subsequently sentenced to two years on a prison farm. There he takes time and punishment to win over the established dominant male, the proud, swaggering gut of Dragline, played by George Kennedy. Luke's rebelliousness bonds and inspires the confined men, though his antics also lead to tragically failed escapes, furious monologues with God (the 'Big Man,' the only authority figure that seems to hold any sway over Luke, powerful by his very inconspicuousness) and escalating confrontations with the masochistic guard, played by Strother Martin. Luke becomes a figure of idolatry, remaining aloof, and, often painfully (most notably when his mother on the outside dies through illness), alone.

Discussion Points:

- *Jesus Figure*
- *Redemption*
- *Stoicism*
- *Atheism*
- *Agnosticism*

Constantine (2005, Certificate)

Based on the DC/Vertigo comic book *Hellblazer* and written by Kevin Brodbin, Mark Bombback and Frank Capello, Constantine tells the story of supernatural detective John Constantine (Keanu Reeves), who has literally been to hell and back. When Constantine teams up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson (Rachel Weisz) to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister (also played by Weisz), their investigation takes them through a world of demons and angels that exists just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles. (Summary written by Unit Publicist)

Discussion Points:

- *Heaven and Hell*
- *Forgiveness*
- *Redemption*
- *Angels*

Contact (1997, Certificate PG)

Contact is the story of free-thinking radio astronomer (Jodie Foster) who discovers an intelligent signal broadcast from deep space. She and her fellow scientists are able to decipher the message and discover detailed instructions for building a mysterious machine.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Science vs. Religion*
- *Why do we believe what we do?*

The Counterfeiters (not yet available on DVD)

The hero, 'Sally' is plucked out of a concentration camp during WWII to work on Project Bernhardt, a Nazi plan to make and distribute millions of counterfeit pounds and dollars, to wreck the economies of Britain and the US. He and his fellow-convicts are well looked-after and their Nazi commander even seems friendly, but there is conflict between the need to ensure personal survival and the desire not to assist the Nazi war effort.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Loyalty*
- *Friendship*

Crash (2004, Certificate 15)

An impressive cast populate this film set in Los Angeles and dealing with the sensitive subjects of race and class in the United States. A so-called portmanteau film, in the style of Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, where different people and story-lines interlock.

Discussion points:

- *Race*
- *Prejudice*
- *Crime*

The Cross and the Switchblade (1972, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Based on a true story, this is the tale of an idealistic young priest who finds himself up against the challenges of youth crime in the chaotic inner-city environment of New York City in the seventies.

Discussion points:

- *Crime*
- *Salvation*
- *Youth*

Cry Freedom (1987, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Donald Woods is chief editor at the liberal newspaper *Daily Dispatch* in South Africa. He has written several editorials critical of the views of Steve Biko. But after having met him for the first time, he changes his views. They meet several times, and this means that Woods and his family receive unwanted attention from the police. When Steve Biko dies in police custody, Woods writes his biography. The only way to get it published is for Woods himself to illegally escape the country

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Apartheid*
- *Racism*
- *Commitment*

- *Friendship*

***Dark City* (1998, Certificate 15)**

The hero lives in a city of eternal night. Because he has special powers, he is able to discover that the city, which is reminiscent of New York in the fifties, is actually the site of a giant experiment – the human citizens are little more than lab-rats in a maze controlled by psychic aliens.

Discussion points:

- *Alternative realities*
- *Human perception*
- *Memory*
- *Science*

***Dark Star* (1974, Certificate PG)**

A crew of bored, hirsute astronauts have spent years on the space-ship Dark Star carrying out the sci-fi equivalent of a bombing mission over Vietnam. The ship is subject to time-dilation, so that the earth they left has grown old by many years, and its people have lost interest in their mission. The ship and its crew become a symbol for hell, or the human condition unrelieved by divine inspiration. When their nightmarish bomb system goes haywire, death seems to offer a real adventure to the crew.

Discussion points:

- *Death*
- *War*
- *Technology*

***Dead Man Walking* (1995, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A caring nun receives a desperate letter from a death row inmate trying to find help to avoid execution for murder. Over the course of the time to the convict's death, the nun begins to show empathy, not only with the pathetic man, but also with the victims and their families. In the end, that nun must decide how she will deal with the paradox of caring for that condemned man while understanding the heinousness of his crimes. Summary written by Kenneth Chisholm.

Discussion Points:

- *Crime and punishment*
- *Capital Punishment*
- *Pay attention to the use of reflections - what are they telling us about the characters and the journeys they are on?*

***Deadly Blessing* (1981, Certificate 18)**

A former Hittite (a member of an Amish-like sect) dies in a mysterious tractor accident and his widow is left to face the frightening Hittites who view her as "the incubus" and may have sinister designs on her.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Fear of unknown*

***Dead Poets Society* (1989, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Painfully shy Todd Anderson has been sent to the school where his popular older brother was valedictorian. His room-mate, Neil, although exceedingly bright and popular, is very much under the thumb of his overbearing father. The two, along with their other friends, meet Professor Keating, their new English teacher, who tells them of the Dead Poets Society, and encourages them to go against the status quo. Each, in their own way, does this, and are changed for life. Summary written by Liz Jordan.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal search*
- *Inspiration*
- *Power of words and interpretation*
- *Suicide*
- *Community*

***Dear America: Letters Home From Vietnam* (1988, Certificate PG)**

A docufilm based on a book which published letters from soldiers and nurses who served in Vietnam. This emotional and powerful film takes the viewer through the war from optimistic beginning to seeds of doubt to the bitter end and a postscript with the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial.

Discussion Points:

- *Just War*
- *Patriotism*

***Devil's Advocate* (1998, Certificate 18)**

Kevin Lomax is a hotshot southern lawyer who knows how to play the game. He gets the opportunity of a lifetime when he is offered a job with a New York law firm that promises much. He takes his wife to the Big Apple and a transformed life of wealth. But the material gains are countered by the emotional atrophy felt by Lomax's wife and, more theatrically, the revelation of his boss as the Devil incarnate.

Discussion Points:

- *Temptation – Faustian; materialism*
- *Religious symbolism*
- *Good and Evil*

***Diary of Anne Frank* (1959, Certificate U)**

In 1942, a Jewish family hides from the Nazis in an Amsterdam attic; just before the war ends, they are betrayed and sent to concentration camps.

Summary by Halliwell's Film & Video Guide 2002.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Holocaust*

***Do the Right Thing* (1989, Certificate 18)**

It's the hottest day of the year in the Bed-Stuy district of Brooklyn, and tensions are growing in this black ghetto area, with the only local businesses a Korean grocery and Sal's Pizzeria. Mookie, Sal's delivery boy, manages to always be at the centre of the action. Summary written by Jon Reeves.

Discussion Points:

- *Race*
- *Identity*
- *What does it mean to do the right thing?*

Dogma (1999, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Two mischievous angels are exiled by God and find themselves in Wisconsin. They set out for New Jersey where they find a loophole that will allow them to re-enter heaven. The only problem is it will destroy humanity. An abortion clinic worker who is a descendant of Christ, a wisecracking 13th apostle, a stripper/muse, and mischievous mall rats Jay and Silent Bob band together to stop them.

Discussion Points:

- *Harmless fun or ultimate blasphemy?*
- *Religious history and interpretation*
- *Angels*
- *God*

Down to Earth (2001, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

An unsuccessful black stand-up comedian arrives in heaven too soon, and is sent back to occupy the body of a murder victim, a rich elderly white man.

Summary Halliwell's Film & Video Guide 2002.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Racism*
- *When is language racist?*

Driving Miss Daisy (1989, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

An elderly Jewish widow living in Atlanta can no longer drive. Her son insists she allow him to hire a driver, which in the 1950s meant a black man. She resists any change in her life but, Hoke, the driver is hired by her son. She refuses to allow him to drive her anywhere at first, but Hoke slowly wins her over with his good graces. The movie is directly taken from a stage play and does show it. It covers over twenty years of the pair's life together as they slowly build a relationship that transcends their differences. Summary written by John Vogel.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Racism*
- *American Apartheid*

Dry White Season (1989, Certificate 15)

Ben du Toit is a schoolteacher who always has considered himself caring and just, at least on the individual level. When his gardener's son is brutally beaten up by the police at a demonstration by black school children, he gradually begins to realize his society is built on a pillar of injustice and exploitation. Summary written by Mattias Thuresson.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*
- *Loyalties*

Dune (1984, Certificate 15)

David Lynch's highly idiosyncratic version of Frank Herbert's science-fiction novel. In the far future, the Atreides dynasty takes control of a planet where the priceless 'spice' is mined. The family seems doomed to failure, but Paul Atreides turns out to be some sort

of Messiah, with a deep, spiritual link to the planet. The desert setting, and the fact that the word 'Jihad' is used at one point, suggests similarities to the life of Muhammad, and to Moses and King David. The family name suggests similarities with the Atrides, the sons of Atreus in Greek Mythology.

Discussion Points:

- *Jihad*
- *Holy War*
- *Sacred Spaces*
- *Old Testament*
- *Mythology*
- *Rites of Passage*
- *Exile*

East is East (1999, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In early 1970's England, a traditional Pakistani father finds his family spinning in non-traditional directions. Things are triggered when the eldest son runs away from home rather than assent to an arranged marriage. When the next two sons also find out that their father has secretly been arranging marriages for them, they rebel and set off repercussions that forces the family to totally reconsider its future.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Mixed faith family*
- *Arranged Marriage*
- *Domestic Violence*
- *Homosexuality*

Edward Scissorhands (1990, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A modern day fairy tale which tells the story of Edward, the man created by an inventor who died before finishing him, leaving Edward with scissors where he should have hands. One day when the local "Avon" representative calls at the historic mansion where Edward has been living alone, she takes him home to stay with her family. He has to adapt to the new life and environment that he isn't used to. Soon he shows a talent in cutting hair and hedges, and wins every body's heart. But not everybody is ready to accept Edward for who he is. Summary by Sami Al-Taher.

Discussion Points:

- *Love*
- *Diversity*
- *Humanity*
- *Disability*

Empire of the Sun (1987, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A Stephen Spielberg film, based on the book by J.G. Ballard. Jim Graham is a British schoolboy separated from his parents and interned by the Japanese in Shanghai during the Second World War. Jim identifies strongly with the military personnel around him in the prison camp and builds up a sort of surrogate family among the hard-bitten American prisoners.

Discussion points:

- *Sacrifice*
- *War*

- *Family*
- *Childhood*

***Escape from Sobibor* (1987, Certificate 15)**

Towards the end of World War II the Nazi regime created three 'Death Camps' in Eastern Poland. One of these was at Sobibor. Other concentration camps were mainly labour or punishment camps, but people were sent here for only one purpose: extermination. A small group of prisoners were kept back from the gas chambers to work the camp under control of the Nazi guards. This is the story of what life was like for those people who had to watch their countrymen and families die. Pushed to the limit of human endurance, they finally found a way to fight back. The spirit of humanity at its most desperate and most magnificent. Summary written by Steve Crook

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Resistance*
- *Human freedom*

***Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (2004, Certificate 15)**

Joel is stunned to discover that his girlfriend Clementine has had her memories of their tumultuous relationship erased. Out of desperation, he contracts the inventor of the process, Dr. Howard Mierzwaik, to have Clementine removed from his own memory. But as Joel's memories progressively disappear, he begins to rediscover their earlier passion. From deep within the recesses of his brain, Joel attempts to escape the procedure. As Dr. Mierzwaik and his crew chase him through the maze of his memories, it's clear that Joel just can't get her out of his head.

Discussion Points:

- *Identity*
- *Memory*
- *Love*
- *Serendipity*
- *Fate*

***Eternity and a Day* (1998, Certificate PG)**

An old writer learns from his doctor that he is very sick and he is going to die next day. Then, he meets a 10 year old boy, who is an immigrant from Albania and works on the streets. He decides to spend his last day with the boy, in an attempt to find love, and understand the meaning of life... and time. Summary written by Chris Makrozahopoulos.

Discussion Points:

- *Purpose of lifestyle*
- *Journey*

***Event Horizon* (1997, Certificate 18)**

A group of astronauts explore an abandoned space-ship which is powered by an artificially-created black hole. They gradually discover that the ship has a life of its own and provides a gateway to a combination of both Chaos and Hell.

Discussion Points:

- *Hell*
- *Science*
- *Evil*

eXistenZ (1999, Certificate 15)

Allegra Geller, the leading game designer in the world, is testing her new virtual reality game, eXistenZ with a focus group. As they begin, she is attacked by a fanatic assassin employing a bizarre organic gun. She flees with a young marketing trainee, Ted Pikul, who is suddenly assigned as her bodyguard. Unfortunately, her pod, an organic gaming device that contains the only copy of the eXistenZ game program, is damaged. To inspect it, she talks Ted into accepting a gameport in his own body so he can play the game with her. The events leading up to this, and the resulting game lead the pair on a strange adventure where reality and their actions are impossible to determine from either their own or the game's perspective. Summary written by Kenneth Chisholm.

Discussion Points:

- *What is reality?*
- *Existentialism*

Das Experiment (2002, Certificate 18)

Based on the results of a real-life experiment at Stanford University, this claustrophobic German film by [Oliver Hirschbiegel](#) tells the story of a group of experimental subjects asked to 'become' prisoners and prison guards for two weeks. The results are predictably nasty, and the film raises important questions about human roles and the nature of the human animal.

Discussion points:

- *Crime*
- *Punishment*
- *Science*
- *Identity*
- *Violence*

Fallen (1998, Certificate 15)

Det. John Hobbes is convinced that when killer Edgar Reese is executed, all of his troubles are over. But when people he knows and people on the street start to sing the same tune that Reese sang in the gas chamber, and those same people taunt him, he is told that maybe the cursed fallen angel Azazel is behind it all. Azazel is cursed to roam the Earth without a form, and he can switch bodies by any contact, making him hard to track. When Hobbes is forced to kill a man possessed by Azazel, he must clear his name while protecting his family and others from the evil, vengeful Azazel. Summary by Ben Borg.

Discussion Points:

- *Good*
- *Evil*
- *Demons*
- *Possession*

Faraway, So Close (1993, Certificate 15)

A sequel to Wender's *Der Himmel über Berlin* (*Wings of desire*), it again follows a group of angels in the German capital who look longingly upon the life of humans, but get inexplicably drawn into a plot about arms dealing. Summary by David Gibson.

Discussion Points:

- *Angels*
- *Love*
- *Sacrifice*
- *See also prequel Wings of Desire*

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998, Certificate 15)

An American journalist and his Samoan 'attorney' travel to Las Vegas to cover a bike race in the Nevada desert. Both are constantly under the influence of drink and drugs, and the garish, hopeless atmosphere of Las Vegas accentuates their disillusionment. The hero/narrator slowly reveals that the 60s alternative scene, from which his predicament originates, was inspired at first by ideals of peace and love.

Discussion points:

- *Drugs*
- *Gambling*
- *Vietnam*
- *Sixties*

Fearless (1993, Certificate 15)

After a terrible air disaster, survivor Max Klein emerges a changed person. Unable to connect to his former life or to wife Laura, he feels godlike and invulnerable. When psychologist Bill Perlman is unable to help Max, he has Max meet another survivor, Carla Rodrigo, who is racked with grief and guilt since her baby died in the crash, which she and Max survived. Summary written by Reid Gagle.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*
- *Miracle?*
- *Death and Bereavement*

Ferngully: The Last Rainforest (1992, Certificate U)

Ferngully, a spectacular rainforest where a bat named Batty, whose radar has gone haywire, joins together with Crysta, Pips and the Beetle Boys to save their world from the evil Hexxus. Ignoring the warnings of her friends, Crysta, the curious tree fairy, explores the world beyond Ferngully. She discovers Zak, a human who is helping to demolish the rainforest. Once Zak sees the beauty and magic of Ferngully, he vows to save it. But it may be too late. The diabolical Hexxus is on the loose and is intent on destroying all of Ferngully.

Summary written by [Rone Barton Lokarr](#).

Discussion Points

- *Conservation*
- *Ecology*

Fiddler on the Roof (1971, Certificate U)

Film version of the stage musical, based on the stories of Sholom Aleichem. Tevye the Milkman is a Jewish peasant in pre-Revolutionary Russia, coping with the day-to-day problems of 'shtetl' life, his Jewish traditions, his family (wife and daughters), and state-sanctioned pogroms. (Summary by Stewart M. Clamen)

Discussion Points:

- *Cultural Heritage*
- *Dogmatics*
- *State versus Religion*

Fight Club (1999, Certificate 18)

Tired of his life as a cog in a corporate and consumerist society, an insomniac businessman collaborates with a persuasive stranger in setting up underground clubs, where men indulge in bare-knuckle fighting and anarchist activities.

Discussion Points:

- *Nihilism*
- *Redemption*
- *Identity*
- *Atheism*
- *Catharsis*

***The Fifth Element* (1997, Certificate PG)**

Two hundred and fifty years in the future, life as we know it is threatened by the arrival of Evil. Only the fifth element can stop the Evil from extinguishing life, as it tries to do every five thousand years. She is helped by ex-soldier, current-cab-driver, Corben Dallas who is, in turn, helped by Prince/Arsenio clone, Ruby Rhod. Unfortunately, Evil is being assisted by Mr. Zorg who seeks to profit from the chaos that Evil will bring, and his alien mercenaries.

Discussion Points:

- *Good and evil stereotypes*
- *Image*
- *Symbolism*

***Finding Nemo* (2003, Certificate U)**

Nemo is a clownfish with a 'gimpy fin' who has to be rescued by his father from an Australian dentist's fish-tank. As the father undergoes a series of adventures on his search, he gradually sheds his extreme caution and narrow-mindedness. The previously over-protected Nemo really finds his feet (as it were) and gains the respect of his fellow fish-tank prisoners. A Disney/Pixar film, using computer animation.

Discussion points:

- *Environment*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Rites of Passage*

***The Fisher King* (1991, Certificate 15)**

A talk DJ inadvertently convinces a deranged caller on air to murder restaurant patrons. After years of wallowing in his remorse, he is attacked and almost set on fire, but a crazy street person rescues him. The DJ finds out the transient is on a mission to find the holy grail, and tries to repay his kindness with money, but the transient has more hands-on assistance in mind, and tries to convince the DJ to help him get the grail.

Discussion Points:

- *Death and Bereavement*
- *Media*
- *Personal Search*
- *Penitence and Forgiveness*

***Flatliners* (1990, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Medical students begin to explore the realm of near death experiences, hoping for insights. Each has their heart stopped and is revived. They begin having flashes of walking nightmares from their childhood, reflecting sins they committed or had committed against them. The experiences continue to intensify. They try and go deeper into the death experience to find a cure.

Discussion Points:

- *Near Death Experience*
- *Afterlife*
- *Heaven and Hell?*

Forrest Gump (1994, Certificate 12)

The story follows the life of simpleton Forrest Gump and his meeting with the love of his life Jenny. The film chronicles his accidental experiences with some of the most important people and events in American history from the late 1950s through to the 1970s including meetings with Elvis Presley, John F Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon and fighting in Vietnam.

Discussion Points:

- *“Life is like a box of chocolates”*
- *Coincidence or Design? Compare feather to plastic bag scene in American Beauty*
- *Storytelling*

Four Weddings and a Funeral (1994, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The film follows the fortunes of Charles and his friends as they wonder if they will ever find true love and marry. Charles thinks he's found "Miss Right" in Carrie, an American. This subtle British comedy revolves around Charlie, his friends and the four weddings and one funeral which they attend. Summary written by Rob Hartill.

Discussion Points:

- *Love*
- *Wedding*
- *Funeral*
- *Ritual*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Obituary*

Gabriel and Me (2001, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In the North East of England a young boy believes he can save his dying father if he can become an angel.

Discussion Points:

- *Illness*
- *Coping with Death*
- *Bereavement*

Gandhi (1982, Certificate PG)

The biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi, who rose from a small-time lawyer to India's spiritual leader through his philosophy of non-violent but direct-action protest. Summary written by Murray Chapman.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Institutional Racism/Empire*
- *Hinduism*

Gangs of New York (2003, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Based on a non-fiction book about 19th century street gangs, this violent epic shows how evil was bred out of evil in the notorious Five Points area of New York. Scorsese's picture begins and ends with pitched battles between Irish immigrants and people who describe themselves as Americans.

Discussion Points:

- *Violence*
- *Racism*
- *Loyalty*
- *Roman Catholicism*
- *Immigration*

Gattaca (1997, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Vincent is one of the last "natural" babies born into a sterile, genetically-enhanced world, where life expectancy and disease likelihood are ascertained at birth. Due to die at 30, he has no chance of a career in a society that discriminates against genes. Going undercover, he assumes the identity of Jerome, crippled in an accident and achieves prominence in the Gattaca Corporation, where he is selected for his lifelong desire: a manned mission to Titan. Vincent's world is thrown upside down when an eyelash of his is found at a murder scene. Certain that they know the murderer's ID, but unable to track down the disguised Vincent, the police start to close in, with extra searches, and new gene tests. With the once-in-a-lifetime launch only days away, Vincent must avoid arousing suspicion, pass the tests and evade the police, all without knowing who to trust. Summary written by Cynan Rees.

Discussion Points:

- *Individuality*
- *Eugenics*

Ghost (1990, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Sam and Molly are a very happy couple and deeply in love. Walking back to their new apartment after a night out at the theatre, they encounter a thief in a dark alley, and Sam is murdered. He finds himself trapped as a ghost and realises that his death was no accident. He must warn Molly about the danger she is in. But as a ghost he can not be seen or heard by the living, and so he tries to communicate with Molly through Oda Mae Brown, a psychic who didn't even realise her powers were real.

Discussion Points:

- *Death and Bereavement*
- *Spiritualism*
- *Afterlife*
- *Heaven and Hell*

Gladiator (2000, Certificate 15)

Condemned to die by a power-mad Emperor, a Roman General, Maximus Decimus Meridias (played by Russell Crowe), escapes into slavery. He rises through the ranks of a gladiator academy before gaining the opportunity for vengeance.

Discussion Points:

- *Faith*
- *Afterlife*
- *Reward (Heavenly and material)*
- *Retribution*

Godspell (1973, Certificate U)

A modern-day version of the gospels, opening with John the Baptist calling a disparate group of young New Yorkers from their workaday lives to follow and learn from Jesus. They form a roving acting troupe that enacts the parables through song and dance, comedy, & mime. Jesus' ministry ends with a last supper, his crucifixion in a junkyard, and, the following morning, his body being carried aloft by his apostles back into the world of the living on the streets of New York. Summary written by Steven Dhuey.

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie*
- *Christianity*

***Gorillas in the Mist* (1988, Certificate 12)**

Sigourney Weaver stars as Dian Fossey in this true story about Fossey's study of gorillas in Africa, and her efforts to stop the decimation of the endangered apes. Summary written by Ray Hamel.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Environment*
- *Animal Rights*
- *Conservation*

***The Gospel According to St Matthew* (1964, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Along a rocky, barren coastline, Jesus begins teaching, primarily using parables. He attracts disciples; he's stern, brusque, and demanding. He comes to bring a sword, not peace, he says. He's in a hurry, moving from place to place near the Sea of Galilee, sometimes attracting a multitude, sometimes being driven away. His parables often take on the powers that be, so he and his teachings come to the attention of the Pharisees, the chief priests, and elders. They conspire to have him arrested, beaten, tried, and crucified, just as he prophesied to his followers. After he dies, he appears to his disciples and gives them final instructions.

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie*
- *Christianity*

***Le Grand Voyage* (2004, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A pious father and sceptical son undertake the Hajj pilgrimage. In time, their similarities and differences reveal much about the Muslim world. Winner of Best First film at the Venice Film Festival 2004.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Parenthood*
- *Hajj*
- *Pilgrimage*

***The Greatest Story Ever Told* (1965, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The 1965 Hollywood Technicolour version of the life of Christ, starring the magnificent Max von Sydow as Jesus. The film was nominated for five Oscars, including original score and special effects.

Discussion Points:

- *Jesus*
- *Passion*

***The Green Mile* (1999, Certificate 18)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Paul Edgecomb is a slightly cynical veteran prison guard on Death Row in the 1930's. His faith and sanity is deteriorated by watching men live and die. Edgecomb is about to have a complete turn around in attitude. Enter John Coffey. He's eight feet tall, has hands the size of shovels and is accused of the murder of two children - he's also afraid to sleep in a cell without a night-light.

Edgecomb and the other prison guards are in for a strange experience that involves intelligent mice, brutal executions, and the revelation about Coffey's innocence and his true identity.

Discussion points:

- *Christ Figure?*
- *Miracle*
- *Death Penalty*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Atonement*
- *Sacrifice*

***Groundhog Day* (1993, Certificate PG)**

A cynical weather man is reluctantly sent to cover a story about a weather forecasting "rat" (as he calls it). This is his fourth year on the story, and he makes no effort to hide his frustration. On awaking the following day, however, he discovers that it's Groundhog Day again. Initially thrilled by the chance to have his time over, he is driven to frustration, then despair, as each waking day is a repetition of this Groundhog Day; the same encounters with the same people. He is, essentially, a man without a future and with no consequences to face. (Summary written by Rob Harthill)

Discussion Points:

- *Love*
- *Redemption*
- *Fate*

***The Guardian* (2006, Certificate 12)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A tough coming-of-age drama about a US Navy rescue swimmer (Kevin Costner) assigned to train rookies, including Ashton Kutcher. Costner becomes a harsh, exacting surrogate father to his charges, who are soon involved in real rescue missions.

Discussion Points:

- *Coming of age*
- *Rites of passage*
- *Bereavement*

The Harry Potter Series

***Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone* (2001, Certificate PG)**

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) has spent the first ten years of his life living under the stairs in the house of his Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon, who generally dislike him. Then, one day, a giant named Hagrid comes to him with an invitation to study at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Harry soon discovers that there are two worlds: one is the dreary world of the Muggles where he's grown up, and the other is one of magic and fantasy, and it's the latter in which he's destined to live. (Summary by Julian Reischl)

***Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets* (2002, Certificate PG)**

In his second term at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) is warned by an elf named Dobby that disaster will strike when he returns to Hogwarts. Besides the fact that he is still disliked by Professor Snape (Alan Rickman) and hated by Draco Malfoy (Tom Felton), Harry gets off to a great start with his two best friends, Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and Hermione Granger (Emma Watson). Hogwarts sees famous writer Gilderoy Lockhart (Kenneth Branagh) join the staff as the new Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher. But now, Hogwarts students are strangely being turned into stone. Who is the one doing it, Malfoy, gamekeeper Hagrid (Robbie Coltrane), or, even, Harry? But what if it's Lord Voldemort trying to make his evil return?

***Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004, Certificate PG)**

It's Harry's third year at Hogwarts and a shadow hangs over the school. A dangerous mass murderer, Sirius Black, has escaped from Azkaban Fortress, the Wizards' Prison. While learning to cope with the Dementors sent to protect Hogwarts, Harry learns the disturbing story of Sirius Black and yet more of his own history. (Summary by Travers Naran)

***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005, Certificate 12)**

Hogwarts, the wizards' boarding school, is playing host to the Tri-Wizard festival. As usual, plans are afoot to kill Harry Potter, and the school becomes a place of peril. Note that this Harry Potter film has a higher certificate than the previous three – Harry and his friends are quite grown up now, and some of the dangers they face are of a darker nature than we have seen before.

Series Discussion Points:

- *Good*
- *Evil*
- *Love*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Bravery*
- *Mission*
- *Vocation*
- *Growing up*
- *Magic*
- *Mentors*

***Hellboy* (2004, Certificate 15)**

In the final days of World War II, the Nazis attempt to use black magic to aid their dying cause. The Allies raid the camp where the ceremony is taking place, but not before a demon - Hellboy - has already been conjured. Joining the Allied forces, Hellboy eventually grows to adulthood, serving the cause of good rather than evil. (Summary written by Brian Barjenbruch)

Discussion Points:

- *Hell*
- *Evil*

***The Hiding Place* (1975, Certificate A)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Corrie and Betsie ten Boom are middle-aged sisters working in their father's watchmaker shop in pre-WWII Holland. Their uneventful lives are disrupted with the coming of the Nazis. Caught hiding Jews in their attic, they are sent to a concentration camp, where their Christian faith keeps them from despair and bitterness. Betsie eventually dies, but Corrie survives, and after the war, must learn to love and forgive her former captors. (Summary written by Mark Hettler)

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Holocaust*
- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*
- *Forgiveness*

***Himalaya* (1999, Certificate PG)**

After his son dies, a dispute over who should lead an all-important yak caravan develops between the elderly village chief, who wants his grandson to become the new leader, and a younger rival.

Discussion Points:

- *Ritual*
- *Tradition*
- *Environment*
- *Vocation*

***Howard's End* (1992, Certificate PG)**

Two sisters, monied but philanthropic, meet members of a wealthy, aristocratic family. The younger sister, Helen (Bonham-Carter), is rejected by the son of the wealthy family but the older sister, Margaret (Thompson), becomes a good friend of the wealthy mother. The old lady's wish is to bequeath her most cherished possession, the family cottage at Howard's End, to Margaret. Over the years, Margaret marries into the wealthy family, who take unkindly to her close relationship with the mother, and try to bar her from taking possession of the house at Howard's End. (Summary by Ed Sutton)

Discussion Points:

- *Forgiveness*
- *Class*
- *Possessions*

***The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1996, Certificate U)**

An unusual choice of subject for a children's cartoon: Victor Hugo's novel has often been given the horror treatment in cinema, for instance by Lon Cheney in the 1923 silent classic. Disney's Quasimodo is a very young man, and the loneliness of his bell-tower is relieved by the company of some loveable gargoyles. He has no sign of madness, and may in fact be the sanest person in the whole film. His adventures with the gypsy girl Esmerelda help him cast off the low self-esteem he has developed because of his deformity: and he doesn't die at the end! The Cathedral of Notre Dame itself is a powerful presence in the film, symbolising justice and sanctuary.

Discussion points:

- *Prayer*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Outcasts*

***The Hunted* (2003, Certificate 15)**

A highly-trained US army commando-assassin goes berserk and becomes a serial killer. Able to survive undetected in almost any terrain, the only man who can catch Hallam is the man who trained him. It emerges that Bonham (played by Tommy Lee Jones) has something like a father-son relationship with Hallam and that, although he has trained killers, he himself has never killed before. As the pair fight it out among rocks, streams and forests in Oregon, the viewer realises that this is a version of the story of Abraham and Isaac.

Discussion Points:

- *War*
- *Fathers and sons*
- *Violence*
- *Abraham and Isaac*

***The Hurricane* (1999, Certificate 15)**

The story of Rubin "The Hurricane" Carter, an African-American boxer who rose above his troubled youth to become a top contender for the world middleweight title. However, he is wrongly accused of a triple homicide, and is convicted to three life sentences. Despite becoming a cause celebre and his dogged efforts to prove his innocence through his autobiography, years pass in prison and he turns to Islam for strength. When an African-American boy and his Canadian mentors read Rubin's book, convincing them of his innocence, they support him in his appeals against the verdict and the racism inherent in middle America, mid-twentieth century.

Discussion Points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Racism (personal and institutional)*
- *Religion as a source of hope*
- *Religion as a conduit of retaliation (compare to Ali's adoption of Islam)*

***Ice Age* (2002, Certificate U)**

Back when the Earth was being overrun by glaciers, and animals were scurrying to save themselves from the upcoming Ice Age, a stupid sloth named Sid, a woolly mammoth named Manny, a saber-toothed tiger named Diego, and an acorn-loving saber-toothed squirrel named Scrat are forced to become unlikely heroes. The four reluctantly come together when they have to return a human child to its father while braving the deadly elements of the impending Ice Age.

Discussion Points:

- *Friendship*
- *Prejudice*

***Ice Age 2: The Meltdown* (2006, Certificate U)**

With their habitat under threat from flooding caused by the ending of the ice age, unlikely friends Manny the woolly mammoth, Diego the sabre-toothed tiger, and Sid the sloth set out on a quest to find a boat that is rumoured to be at the other end of the valley. The characters in the film go on a journey of self discovery, overcoming their fear of the unknown on the way. Synopsis from Amazon.com (adapted)

Discussion points:

- *Identity*
- *Belonging*
- *Journey*

***I ♥ Huckabees* (2004, Certificate 15)**

Dustin Hoffman and Lily Tomlin play a husband-and wife team of 'Existential Detectives' called in to help out a troubled fireman and an environmentalist. The characters are caught up in a plan to convert an environmentally important piece of land into another Huckabees chain-store (for 'Huckabees' read 'Walmart'). The film examines the ways people try to make sense of their lives, and reconcile their ideals with their actions.

Discussion points:

- *Existentialism*
- *Idealism*
- *Globalisation*
- *Identity*

***Immaculate Conception* (1989, Certificate 15)**

In Pakistan, a childless American woman is told that she will conceive if she returns to a shrine with her English husband, although she suspects him of having an affair with an Indian friend.

Discussion Points:

- *Ritual*
- *Amalgamation of cultures*

***An Inconvenient Truth* (2006, Certificate E)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The influential Oscar-winning documentary about the threat of global warming from Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore, who very narrowly failed to become President of the

United States in 2000. Following an attempt to ban the film from secondary schools, a judge ruled that the film was substantially true, but that there were nine errors in it.

Discussion Points:

- *Environment*
- *Politics*
- *Energy*

Indiana Jones Trilogy

***Raiders of the Last Ark* (1981, Certificate PG)**

Renowned archaeologist and expert in the occult, Dr. Indiana Jones, is hired by the U.S. Government to find the Ark of the Covenant, which is believed to still hold the ten commandments. Unfortunately, agents of Hitler are also after the Ark. Indy, and his ex-flame Marion, escape from various close scrapes in a quest that takes them from Nepal to Cairo. (Summary written by Colin Tinto)

***Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* (1984, Certificate PG)**

Renowned archaeologist and expert in the occult, Dr. Indiana Jones, is back in action in the 2nd Indy film. He teams up with a nightclub singer and a 12 year old named Short Round. They end up in an Indian village, where the people believe evil spirits have taken their children away after a sacred stone was stolen. Indiana agrees to try and retrieve the stone for the villagers. (Summary written by Colin Tinto)

***Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* (1989, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Renowned archaeologist and expert in the occult, Dr. Indiana Jones, returns for the 3rd and final Indy film. Teaming up with his father, Indiana sets out to try and find the Holy Grail. Once again, the Nazis are after the same prize, and try to foil Indiana's plans. (Summary written by Colin Tinto)

Discussion Points:

- *Harmless fun utilising religious ideas and iconography or a graphic misuse of religious material, which in the end is both inaccurate and potentially offensive?*
- *Greed and motives: The Holy Grail compared to the Faustian bargain.*

***I, Robot* (2004, Certificate 12A)**

Set in a future (2035 A.D.) where robots work for their human owners, this is the story of technophobic Chicago Police Detective John Spooner's investigation into the murder of Dr. Alfred Lanning. Lanning worked at U.S. Robotics and Sonny, one of his flagship productions, is accused of the crime, though this goes against Asimov's three rules for robots (Robots cannot intentionally harm humans or stand by and watch them harmed; robots must follow human instruction unless this breaks the first rule; and robots must protect themselves without violating the other rules). If these rules can be broken, humanity faces extinction by the tools it has created. (Summary written by Austin4577)

Discussion Points:

- *Creation*
- *Personhood*
- *Evolution*
- *Sentient Life*

***Into Great Silence* (2006, Certificate E)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

An unusual documentary film about the monastery of the Grande Chartreuse in the French Alps.

Discussion Points:

- *Monasticism*
- *Prayer*
- *Silence*

It's a Wonderful Life (1946, Certificate U)

George Bailey has so many problems he is thinking about ending it all - and it's Christmas! As the angels discuss George, we see his life in flashback. As George is about to jump from a bridge, he ends up rescuing his guardian angel, Clarence. Clarence then shows George what his town would have looked like if it hadn't been for all his good deeds over the years. Will Clarence be able to convince George to return to his family and forget about suicide? (Summary written by Colin Tinto)

Discussion Points:

- *Angels*
- *Personal Search*
- *Human Responsibility*

Jacob's Ladder (1990)

New York postal worker Jacob Singer is trying to keep his frayed life from unravelling. His days are increasingly being invaded by flashbacks to his first marriage, his now-dead son, and his tour of duty in Vietnam. Though his new wife tries to help Jacob keep his grip on sanity, the line between reality and delusion is steadily growing more and more uncertain.

Discussion Points:

- *Reality*

Jesus Christ Superstar (1973, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Based on a concept album project written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice, and the subsequent long-running Broadway performance, this film tells the story of the final 6 days in the life of Jesus Christ through the troubled eyes of Judas Iscariot. Too often mislabelled a musical, this film is a "rock opera". There are no spoken lines, everything is sung. (Summary written by Ralf Southard).

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie*
- *Christianity*

Jesus of Nazareth (1986, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Extremely popular if long and devotional depiction of the life of Christ using the Gospel accounts and other extraneous material.

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie*
- *Christianity*

Jesus of Montreal (1989, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A group of actors putting on an interpretive Passion play in Montreal begin to experience a meshing of their characters and their private lives as the production takes form against the growing opposition of the Catholic Church. (Summary written by Keith Loh)

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie*

- *Christianity*

***The Jewel of the Nile* (1985, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A different setting (the desert, rather than the jungle) provides the background for another cartoon-strip adventure by the characters from 'Romancing the Stone.' Joan Wilder (Kathleen Turner), Jack Colton (Michael Douglas), and greedy little Ralph (Danny DeVito), with his heart set on acquiring the "jewel," all reprise their roles.

Discussion Points:

- *Artefacts*
- *Pilgrimage*
- *Sacrilege*

***Joseph King of Dreams* (2000, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A straight-to-DVD sequel to *The Prince of Egypt*, this covers the same Old Testament narrative ground as Joseph and his amazing technicolour dreamcoat, but in the form of a cartoon, with different songs.

Discussion Points:

- *Old Testament*
- *Identity*
- *Judaism*
- *Exile*

***King of Kings* (1927, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The prestige picture to end all prestige pictures, the original silent *King of Kings* draws on the work of great artists such as the engraver Gustave Dore to create a stunning visual spectacle.

Discussion Points:

- *Jesus*
- *Passion*
- *Religious art*

***King of Kings* (1961, Certificate TBA)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC, but our DVD copy has Region 1 coding and may not be playable on some UK players)

The 60s remake of DeMille's silent classic, with sound and colour. This version re-uses some of DeMille's photographic ideas but it has never achieved the status of the 1927 original, partly because of Jeffrey Hunter's controversial performance as Jesus.

Discussion Points:

- *Jesus*
- *Passion*

***Koyaanisqatsi* (1983, Certificate)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Koyaanisqatsi is a documentary (of sorts). It is also a visual concert of images set to the haunting music of Phillip Glass. While there is no plot in the traditional sense, there is a definite scenario. The film opens on ancient native American cave drawings, while the soundtrack chants "*Koyaanisqatsi*" which is a Hopi indian term for "life out of balance". The film uses extensive time lapse and slow motion photography to make comparisons between different types of physical motion. This technique of comparison exists throughout the film, and through it we learn more about the world around us. The film progresses from purely natural environments to

nature as affected by man, and finally to man-made environments, devoid of nature yet still following the patterns of natural flow as depicted in the beginning of the film. (Summary written by Andrew M. Somers).

Discussion Points:

- *See also: Powaqqatsi. Although dated in places, these films offer powerful, evocative images of the natural and constructed world and question humankind's place and impact upon both.*

Kundun (1997, Certificate 12)

In 1937, in a remote area of Tibet close to the Chinese border, a two year old child is identified as the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama, the compassionate Buddha. Two years later, the child is brought to Lhasa where he is schooled as a monk and as head of state amidst the colour and pageantry of Tibetan culture. The film follows him into adulthood: when he is 14, the Chinese invade Tibet and he is forced into a shaky coalition government; he travels to China to meet with a cynical Mao; and, finally, in 1959, ill and under siege, he flees to India. Throughout, he has visions of his people's slaughter under Chinese rule. Summary written by J Haley.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Buddhism*
- *Dalai Lama*
- *Tibet*
- *Colonisation*

The Last Temptation of Christ (1988, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The carpenter Jesus of Nazareth, tormented by the temptations of demons, the guilt of making crosses for the Romans, pity for men and the world, and the constant call of God, sets out to find what God wills for him. But as his mission nears fulfilment, he must face the greatest temptation: the normal life of a good man. Based not on the Gospels, but on Nikos Kazantzakis' novel of the same name. Summary written by Nick Lopez.

Discussion Points:

- *Classic Jesus Movie – the only one from a first person psychological perspective*
- *Christianity*

Leon the Pig Farmer (1992, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Leon, is an estate agent and a London Jew. Due to an artificial insemination accident he discovers that his real father is a pig farmer. Rejected by his girlfriend he goes on a voyage of discovery to Yorkshire, to meet his biological father and half brother. Can he bring both families together? Summary written by Matthew Stanfield.

Discussion Points:

- *Judaism*
- *Personal Search*
- *Kosher*

Let Him Have It (1991, Certificate 15)

In 1950s England, slow-witted Derek Bentley falls in with a group of petty criminals led by Chris Craig, a teenager with a fondness for American gangster films. Chris and Derek's friendship leads to their involvement in the true case, which would forever shake England's belief in capital punishment. Summary written by Scott Renshaw.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Death Penalty*

The Life and Passion of Jesus Christ (1905) and From the Manger to the Cross (1912) (no certification)

(You can borrow these movies as one item from NERLRC)

Life and Passion is now over 100 years old, yet it's in colour: a special tinting process was used to bring life to the silent print. As with the much later films of Charlie Chaplin, the camera hardly moves: the story of the life of Jesus is told via a series of theatrical tableaux with carefully painted back-drops. The whole thing has the atmosphere of an Edwardian photographer's studio. *Manger to Cross* was filmed on location in Egypt and Palestine, and is more like a conventional silent film. Both films draw heavily on the work of artists such as Gustave Dore.

Discussion Points:

- *Jesus*
- *Passion*
- *Religious Art*

Life is Beautiful (1997, Certificate PG)

In 1930s Italy, a carefree Jewish bookkeeper named Guido starts a fairy tale life by courting and marrying a lovely woman from a nearby city. Guido and his wife have a son and live happily together until the occupation of Italy by German forces. In an attempt to hold his family together and help his son survive the horrors of a Jewish Concentration Camp, Guido imagines that the Holocaust is a game and that the grand prize for winning is a tank. Summary written by Anthony Hughes.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Nature of truth*

Life of Brian (1979, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Irreverent satire of Biblical films and religious intolerance focuses on Brian, a Jew in Roman-occupied Judea, born in the stable next door to Jesus. After joining up with an anti-Roman political organization, Brian is mistaken for a prophet, and becomes a reluctant Messiah.

Discussion Points:

- *Historical Accuracy*
- *God's Image*

The Life of David Gale (2003, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A campaigner against the death penalty finds himself on Death Row in Texas. He contacts a feisty investigative journalist three days before his execution date, requesting she uncover the truth about his situation. What follows is not what she expected to find.

Discussion points:

- *Capital punishment*
- *Polemic against capital punishment*
- *Justice*

The Lion King (1994, Certificate U)

A young lion prince is born in Africa, thus making his uncle Scar the second in line to the throne. Scar plots with the hyenas to kill King Mufasa and Prince Simba, thus making himself King. The King is killed and Simba is led to believe by Scar that it was his fault, and so flees the kingdom in shame. After years of exile he is persuaded to return home to overthrow the usurper and claim the kingdom as his own thus completing the "Circle of Life". Summary written by King of Hearts.

Discussion Points:

- *Death and Bereavement*
- *Personal Search*

The Lion King 2: Simba's Pride (1998, Certificate U)

Simba and Nala have a daughter, Kiara. Timon and Pumbaa are assigned to be her babysitters, but she easily escapes their care and ventures into the forbidden lands. There she meets a lion cub named Kovu and they become friends. What she and her parents do not know is that Kovu is the son of Zira - a banished follower of the now-dead Scar. She plans to raise Kovu to overthrow Simba and become the king of the Pride Lands. This tests not only Kiara and Kovu's relationship as they mature, but Simba's relationship with his daughter. (Summary by Rori Stevens)

Discussion Points:

- *Death and Bereavement*
- *Personal Search*

Little Buddha (1993, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Lama Norbu comes to Seattle in search of the reincarnation of his dead teacher, Lama Dorje. His search leads him to young Jesse Conrad, Raju, a boy from Kathmandu, and an Indian girl. Together, they journey to Bhutan where the three children must undergo a test to prove which is the true reincarnation. Interspersed with this is the story of Siddharta, later known as the Buddha. It traces his spiritual journey from ignorance to true enlightenment. Summary written by Samantha Santa Maria.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Buddhism*
- *Reincarnation*

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy

The Lord of the Rings – The Fellowship of the Ring (2001, Certificate PG)

An ancient Ring thought lost for centuries is found, and ends up in the hands of a small Hobbit named Frodo. When Gandalf, a benevolent wizard, discovers the Ring is in fact the One Ring of the Dark Lord Sauron, Frodo must make an epic quest to the Cracks of Doom in order to destroy it. He does not travel alone. He is joined by Gandalf, Legolas the elf, Gimli the Dwarf, Aragorn, Boromir and his three Hobbit friends Merry, Pippin and Samwise. Through mountains, snow, darkness, forests, rivers and plains, facing evil and danger at every corner the Fellowship of the Ring must go. Their quest to destroy the One Ring is the only hope for the end of the Dark Lord's reign. Summary written by Paul Twomey.

The Lord of the Rings – The Two Towers (2002, Certificate 12A)

The Fellowship has been broken. Boromir is dead, Frodo and Samwise have gone on to Mordor alone to destroy the One Ring. Merry and Pippin have been captured by the Uruk-hai, whilst Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli have made friends with the Rohan, a race of humans, led by an ageing king, that are in the path of the upcoming war. The two towers between Mordor and Isengard have united in their lust for destruction. The corrupt wizard Saruman, under the power of the Dark Lord Sauron, and his assistant, Gríma Wormtongue, have created a grand Uruk-hai army bent on the destruction of Man and Middle-earth. The rebellion against Sauron is building

up and will be led by Gandalf, who was thought dead after also being captured. One of the Ring's original bearers, the elfish creature Gollum, has tracked Frodo and Sam down in search of his 'precious' artefact, but is himself captured by the Hobbits and used to lead them to Mt. Doom. The War of the Ring has now begun.

The Lord of the Rings – The Return of the King (2003, Certificate 12A)

(You can borrow the extended version of this movie from NERLRC. Our version is made up of 4 DVDs with a host of interesting DVD extras)

The Fellowship divides to conquer as Frodo and Sam, with the help and hindrance of Gollum, continue their way to Mount Doom. Gandalf and Pippin ride to Minas Tirith to help defend Gondor while Merry remains with Eowyn and the other Rohan fighters. Aragorn, Legolas, and Gimli seek aid from those that live in the Cursed Mountains. All these battles have one goal in mind: distract the Eye of Sauron and buy Frodo a little more time to destroy the ring. Summary by PompeyV

Discussion Points:

- *Good vs. Evil*
- *Symbolism*
- *Pilgrimage*
- *Holy War*
- *Sacrifice*

Lord of War (2006, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A very black comedy about an arms dealer (played by Nicholas Cage) who tries to make his fortune by selling disused Ukrainian weapons to the highest bidder.

Discussion Points:

- *Arms trade*
- *War*
- *Dictatorships*
- *Capitalism*
- *Moral choices*

The Long Walk Home (1990, Certificate PG)

Dramatizes the events in 1955-1956 in Montgomery, Alabama, when blacks boycotted public transport because they were forced to sit at the back. Odessa works as a maid for the Thompson's, and as well as she is treated, she feels it is her duty to walk to work, even if it means she is exhausted, and gets to work late. Summary written by Murray Chapman.

Discussion Points:

- *American Apartheid*
- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*
- *Civil Rights Movement*
- *Rosa Parks*
- *Martin Luther King*

Love, Actually (2003, Certificate 15)

People are falling in love, falling out of love, some with the right people, some with the wrong people. Some are looking to have an affair, some are in the period of mourning. Set in a frantic pre-Christmas month in London, eight couples' lives and relationships interact, knitted together by coincidence, comedy and an upbeat soundtrack. A very cleverly-constructed 'portmanteau' film, which switches between stories without

confusing the audience. *Love, actually* is particularly effective when it explores the territory where friendship and love overlap.

Discussion Points:

- *Love*
- *Fate*
- *Betrayal*
- *Sacrifice*

***The Magdalene Sisters* (2002, Certificate 15)**

Harrowing drama set in sixties Ireland in: Four women are given into the custody of the Magdalene sisterhood asylum to correct their more or less sinful behaviour: Crispina and Rose have given birth to a pre-marriage child, Margaret got raped by her cousin and the orphan Bernadette had been repeatedly caught flirting with the boys. All have to work in a laundry under the strict supervision of the nuns, who attempt to break their wills through brutal punishments. Some of the inmates develop countermeasures, whilst others perish under the treatment. (Summary by Moritz Muehlenhoff)

Discussion Points:

- *Catholicism*
- *Institutionalised bullying*

***The Mahabharata* (1989, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Film based on Peter Brook's acclaimed stage version of the ancient Indian epic, which includes the spiritual classic, the Bhagavad-Gita. Two royal dynasties battle it out for control of a world where magic, myth and miracle are always close to the surface. The Hindu God Krishna is a character in the story, giving guidance to the family that represents the side of good.

Discussion Points:

- *Krishna*
- *Bhagavad-Gita*
- *War*
- *Mythology*

***Maid in Manhattan* (2003, Certificate PG)**

The story of a hotel maid who falls in love with a candidate senator, who thinks she's someone else because he met her wearing a guest's clothes. Once the deception is revealed the relationship collapses but the maid's son (she's a single mum) asks his mum whether people should be forgiven and offered a second chance. He also asks this question of the senator at a rally.

Discussion points:

- *Forgiveness*
- *Sticking to principles*

***Malcolm X* (1997, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Biography of Malcolm X, the famous African American leader. Born Malcolm Little, his father (a minister) was killed by the Ku Klux Klan. He became a gangster, and while in jail discovered the Nation of Islam writings of Elijah Muhammad. He preaches the teachings when let out of jail, but later on goes on a pilgrimage to the city of Mecca, there he converts to the original

Islamic religion and becomes a Sunni Muslim. He changes his name to El-Hajj Malik Al-Shabazz and stops his anti-white teachings, as he realises the error of his mistakes. He is later on assassinated and dies a Muslim Martyr.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*
- *Religious Experience*
- *Pilgrimage*
- *Islam*

***A Man for All Seasons* (1966, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The central character of this film, based on a hit play by Robert Bolt, is Sir Thomas More, Chancellor to King Henry VIII. More is now regarded as a saint because he stood out against Henry's divorce from Catherine of Aragon – the event which led to the Reformation in England. Paul Scofield's performance as More is outstanding, even among the superb actors in the rest of the cast.

Discussion Points:

- *Reformation*
- *Divorce*
- *Ethics*
- *Monarchy*
- *Saints*

***The Man Who Planted Trees* (1987, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

This film tells the story of a shepherd who repairs the ruined ecosystem of a secluded valley by single-handedly cultivating a forest over a thirty year period. Summary written by Kenneth Chisholm.

Discussion Points:

- *Environment*
- *Conservation*
- *Commitment*

***The Man Who Sued God* (2001, Certificate 15)**

Billy Connolly plays Steve Myers, a lawyer who becomes a fisherman as an escape for the stresses of the bar. But when his one piece of property, his boat, is struck by lightning and destroyed he is denied insurance money because it was 'an act of God'. Myers re-registers as a lawyer and sues the insurance company and God (under the guise of the Church).

Discussion Points:

- *Natural Disaster*
- *Fate*
- *Accountability*

***A Matter of Life and Death* (1946, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

David Niven plays an RAF bomber pilot who should have died when he jumped out of his stricken plane without a parachute. But Heaven has made a mistake, and the pilot

lives long enough to fall in love. In this British classic, Heaven is in black and white and the world is in glorious 40s Technicolour. Heaven is stark and modernist, but also surreal. The film was made just after WWII so all the details of costumes and speech are authentic and convincing.

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Love*
- *Heaven*

Mary, Mother of Jesus (1999, Certificate N/A [made for television])

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Retelling of the story of the life of Jesus, focussing on the role of his mother, Mary.

Discussion Points:

- *Historical Accuracy*
- *Christology*
- *Motherhood*
- *Suffering*

The Matrix Trilogy

The Matrix (1999, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In the near future, a computer hacker named Neo (Keanu Reeves) discovers that all life on Earth may be nothing more than an elaborate facade created by a malevolent cyber-intelligence, for the purpose of placating us while our life essence is "farmed" to fuel the Matrix's campaign of domination in the "real" world. He joins like-minded Rebel warriors Morpheus (Laurence Fishburne) and Trinity (Carrie-Ann Moss) in their struggle to overthrow the Matrix. (Summary written by Jake Gittes)

The Matrix Reloaded (2003, Certificate 15)

Neo, Morpheus, Trinity, and the rest of their crew continue to battle the machines that have enslaved the human race in the Matrix. As their quest unfolds, Neo learns more about his super-heroic abilities, including the ability to see the codes of the people and things around him. Simultaneously, now, more humans are waking up out of the Matrix and attempting to live in the real world. As their numbers grow, the battle moves to Zion--the last real-world city and center of human resistance. (Summary written by Sujit R. Varma)

The Matrix Revolutions (2003, Certificate 15)

The machine army continues to drill towards Zion. Within hours, they will overrun the Zionites and lay extinction to human kind. Meanwhile, Neo is held captive by the Merovingian at a limbo-like train station between the matrix and the real world. Trinity & Morpheus set out on a journey to release him from a mysterious train operator. Agent Smith resumes his quest to kill "Mr. Anderson" as he reveals his identity to the real world and replicates his program inside the matrix, causing it to decay. All hope is placed in the freed Neo, who must travel with Trinity to the city of the machines in the Logos ship and bargain to save each kingdom from destruction by finishing Smith once and for all.

Discussion Points:

- *Allegorical Christ Story?*
- *Faith (based on empiricism, evidence)*
- *Personal Search*
- *Commitment*

Max (2002, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

What if Hitler had had a Jewish friend? Set in Munich in 1918 this film details the fictitious friendship between Adolf Hitler, then a struggling artist, and Max Rothman, a wealthy Jewish war veteran. Rothman offers Hitler what amounts to salvation, but Hitler's twisted nature and the fevered political atmosphere of the time makes his descent into fascist politics almost inevitable.

Discussion points:

- *Judaism*
- *Anti-semitism*
- *Salvation*
- *War*
- *Friendship*
- *Holocaust*
- *Fascism*
- *Racism*

Meet Joe Black (1998, Certificate 12)

Bill Parrish, media tycoon, loving father and still a human being, is about to celebrate his 65th birthday. One morning, he is contacted by the Inevitable - by hallucination, as he thinks. Later, Death itself enters his home and his life, personified in a man's body: Joe Black has arrived. His intention was to take Bill with him, but accidentally, Joe's former host and Bill's beautiful daughter Susan have already met. Joe begins to develop certain interest in life on earth as well as in Susan, who has no clue who she's flirting with. Summary written by Julian Reischl.

Discussion Points:

- *Death and Life*
- *Love*
- *Personal Search*

Memento (2000, Certificate 15)

Leonard Shelby suffers from severe short-term memory loss. The last thing he remembers is seeing his wife dying and being struck on the back of the head. Leonard's one aim is to track down and kill his wife's killer. In flashbacks, each one earlier in time than the last, he tries to piece together the clues he writes on Polaroid photographs and tattoos on his body. We meet the loquacious Teddy and the seductive Natalie (a barmaid who promises to help) and we glimpse Leonard's wife through memories from before the assault. Leonard also talks about Sammy Jankis, a man he knew with a similar condition, a man who had no system, no routine, which Leonard believes helps him get through each day and will lead to his wife's killer. (Summary by J. Hailey)

Discussion Points:

- *Memory*
- *Exploiting disability*
- *Retribution*
- *Must we remember our actions for them to remain significant?*
- *Disability as a source of comedy*

Men of Honour (2001, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Biopic of Carl Brashear, the first African-American Master diver, starring Robert de Niro and Cuba Gooding Jr.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*

The Messenger (1976)

Classic retelling of the story of the creation and establishment of Islam through the actions of the Prophet Muhammed.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Revelation*
- *Religious Experience*

Michael (1996, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Frank Quinlan and Huey Driscoll, two reporters from a Chicago tabloid, along with Dorothy Winters, an 'angel expert', are asked to travel to rural Iowa to investigate a claim from an old woman that she shares her house with a real, live archangel named Michael. Upon arrival, they see that her claims are true - but Michael is not what they expected: he smokes, drinks beer, has a very active libido and has a rather colourful vocabulary. In fact, they would never believe it were it not for the two feathery wings protruding from his back. Michael agrees to travel to Chicago with the threesome, but what they don't realise is that the journey they are about to undertake will change their lives forever. (Summary written by Jonathan Broxton)

Discussion Points:

- *Angels*
- *Stereotypes*

Million Dollar Baby (2004, Certificate 12A)

In the wake of a painful estrangement from his daughter, boxing trainer Frankie Dunn has been unwilling to let himself get close to anyone for a long time. Then Maggie Fitzgerald walks into his gym. Maggie's gotten herself this far on raw talent and a tremendous force of will. But more than anything, she wants someone to believe in her. Won over by Maggie's sheer determination, Frankie begrudgingly agrees to take her on. Exasperating and inspiring each other, the two come to discover that they share a common spirit that transcends the pain and loss of their pasts, and they find in each other a sense of family they lost long ago. Summary Written by Sujit R. Varma.

Discussion Points:

- *Family*
- *Destiny*
- *Fate*
- *Euthanasia*
- *Redemption*

Millions (2004, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Two small boys discover a bag of money left over from a bank-robbery. Soon the bank-notes won't be legal tender any more – what to do? The moral dilemma the boys face is complicated by the fact that one of them, called Damian, is obsessed with the lives of the saints.

Discussion Points:

- *Saints*
- *Moral dilemma*

Minority Report (2001, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Based on a Philip K. Dick short story, *Minority Report* is about John Anderton, a cop in the future (2054) working in a “pre-crime” division of the police department that arrests killers before they can commit a murder. This is done by manipulating the mental skills of three prescient beings (“pre-cogs”). But Anderton (played by Tom Cruise) has the tables turned on him when he is accused of a future crime himself. Certain of his innocence, he goes on the run to prove the system is fallible.

Discussion Points:

- *Predestination*
- *Fate*
- *Crime and Punishment*
- *Christian teaching on sin – thinking and acting*

The Miracle Maker (1999, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Using animated clay figures, the story of Jesus' later life is told. He performs God's work, enacts miracles, and eventually is crucified, before rising from the dead.

Discussion Points:

- *Christianity*
- *Biography*

Miracle on 34th Street (1994, Certificate U)

Six-year-old Susan has doubts about childhood's most enduring miracle - Santa Claus. Her mother told her the "secret" about Santa a long time ago, so Susan doesn't expect to receive the most important gifts on her Christmas list. But after meeting a special department store Santa who's convinced he's the real thing, Susan is given the most precious gift of all - something to believe in. Starring Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott and Mara Wilson as Susan. (Summary written by Robert Lynch)

Discussion Points:

- *Faith*
- *Belief in a modern environment*

The Mission (1986, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Jeremy Irons plays a Spanish Jesuit who goes into the South American wilderness to build a mission in the hope of converting the Indians of the region. Robert DeNiro plays a slave hunter who is converted and joins Irons in his mission. When Spain sells the colony to Portugal, they are forced to defend all they have built against the Portuguese aggressors.

Discussion Points:

- *Religious Experience*
- *Faith*
- *Colonisation*
- *Penitence and Forgiveness*

Mississippi Burning (1988, Certificate 18)

Based on a true story. Three young civil rights activists are murdered by the Ku Klux Klan and lie buried in a Mississippi swamp. Two FBI agents with wildly varying styles are investigating the murders. Gene Hackman's small town sheriff contrasts with Willem Dafoe's youthful FBI agent as they come up against a conspiracy of silence and a community deeply segregated.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*
- *Segregation*
- *Institutional Racism*

Mississippi Masala (1992, Certificate 15)

An Indian family is expelled from Uganda when Idi Amin takes power. They move to Mississippi and time passes. The Indian daughter falls in love with a black man, and the respective families have to come to terms with it. Summary written by Ed Sutton.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*
- *Segregation*

Monsters, Inc. (2001, Certificate U)

It turns out that the monsters who hide in the closets of children's bedrooms are visitors from another dimension who collect screams to power their technology. The film relates what happens when one of the children crosses over into Monstropolis: in effect, the age-old conflict between children and monsters is resolved, to everyone's benefit.

Discussion points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Discrimination*
- *Friendship*

Monty Python's 'Meaning of Life' (1983, Certificate 15)

The comedy group's last full-length movie returns to the feel of the hugely popular BBC TV show. It features small comedy sketches dealing with all of the stages and trials of life. Expect the unexpected. Plenty of religious, vulgar, and sexual humour may offend some groups. There are even musical numbers, but with that same unmistakable brand of Python humour. Summary written by Greg Bole

Discussion Points:

- *Creation*
- *Moral Issues*
- *Death*

Mr Holland's Opus (1995, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Glenn Holland (Dreyfuss) is a musician and composer who takes a teaching job to pay the rent while, in his 'spare time', he can strive to achieve his true goal - compose one memorable piece of music to leave his mark on the world. As Holland discovers 'Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans' and as the years unfold the joy of sharing his contagious passion for music with his students becomes his new definition of success.

Discussion Points:

- *Commitment*

Mulan (1999, Certificate PG)

An old Chinese folktale about a young Chinese maiden who learns that her weakened and lame father is to be called up into the army in order to fight the invading Huns. Knowing that he would never survive the rigours of war in his state, she disguises herself and joins in his place. Unknown to her, her ancestors are aware of this and to prevent it, they order a tiny disgraced dragon, Mushu to join her in order to force her to abandon her plan. He agrees, but when he meets Mulan, he learns that she cannot be dissuaded and so decides to help her.

Discussion Points:

- *Chinese Folktale*
- *Commitment*

My Beautiful Launderette (1985, Certificate 15)

My Beautiful Launderette is set within the Asian community in Thatcherite London. Omar gains the running of his Uncle Nasser's laundrette. He is helped by his gay friend Johnny, who is an outsider, white but not entirely accepted by either the white or Asian Londoners. There are many memorable characters: Tania, Omar's cousin whom he might marry. Salim the manager of Nasser's garage and sometime drug importer. Rachel, Nasser's white mistress, who like Johnny seems to be another outsider. The interaction of these people gives a comic insight into their world and makes a very refreshing film. Summary written by Matthew Stanfield.

Discussion Points:

- *Homosexuality*
- *Racism*

***My Big Fat Greek Wedding* (2002, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The story of a Greek woman in modern Chicago who defies her loud, overbearing family and marries a non-Greek. It's a comedy version of Romeo and Juliet with a happy ending: the clash between families has resonance for anyone who has found love in an unexpected place. The size, loudness, pride and closeness of the Greek extended family raises questions about the relative anonymity and isolation of the 'normal' Anglo-Saxon family of the film's male lead.

Discussion points:

- *Greek Orthodox Church*
- *Identity/ethnicity*
- *Baptism*
- *Marriage*
- *Family*
- *Prejudice*

***My Left Foot* (1989, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Christy Brown is a spastic quadriplegic born to a large, poor Irish family. His mother, Mrs Brown, recognizes the intelligence and humanity in the lad everyone else regards as a vegetable. Eventually, Christy matures into a cantankerous writer who uses his only functional limb, his left foot, to write with. Summary written by Reid Gagle.

Discussion Points:

- *Disability*
- *Commitment*
- *Personal Search*

***The Name of the Rose* (1987, Certificate 18)**

Based on the best-selling novel by Umberto Eco, this is the story of a series of mysterious murders committed in a remote monastery. The hero, a Franciscan monk played by Sean Connery, delves into the puzzle and discovers clues leading to heresy and the existence of a priceless hidden library.

Discussion Points:

- *Monasticism*
- *Death*
- *Heresy*

***The Neon Bible* (1995, Certificate 15)**

While on a train, a teenage boy thinks about his life and the flamboyant aunt whose friendship acted as an emotional shield from his troubled family. This film evokes the haunting quality of

memory while creating a heartfelt portrait of a boy's life in a rural 1940s Southern town. Summary written by Ivana Redwine.

Discussion Points:

- *Memory*

Not without my Daughter (1991, Certificate 12)

"Moody" is an Iranian doctor living in America with his American wife Betty and their child Mahtob. Wanting to see his homeland again, he convinces his wife to take a short holiday there with him and Mahtob. Betty is reluctant, as Iran is not a pleasant place, especially if you are American and female. Upon arrival in Iran, it appears that her worst fears are realized: Moody declares that they will be living there from now on. Betty is determined to escape from Iran, but taking her daughter with her presents a larger problem. Summary written by Murray Chapman.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Child Abduction*

O Brother, Where Art Thou? (2000, Certificate 12)

Reputedly, but only negligibly based on Homer's 'The Odyssey,' the movie traces the adventures of Everett Ulysses McGill and his companions Delmar and Pete through 1930s Mississippi. Sprung from a chain gang and trying to recover the buried loot of a bank heist, they are confronted on the way by a series of strange characters. Among them sirens, a cyclops, bankrobber George 'Babyface' Nelson, a campaigning Governor, his opponent, a KKK lynch mob, and a blind prophet, who warns the trio that "the treasure you seek shall not be the treasure you find." (Summary by Arminn Ortman)

Discussion Points:

- *Journey*
- *Pilgrimage*
- *Baptism*
- *Salvation*
- *Providence*
- *Miracle*
- *Myth*

Once Upon a Time America (1984, Certificate 18)

Complex tale of the life of New York gangsters from the period of the early 1900's through prohibition, and climaxing in their subsequent reunion in the 1960's. Robert De Niro and James Woods play the lead roles of loyal childhood friends who enter a life of crime together that inevitably leads to tragedy. Summary written by Grant Hamilton.

Discussion Points:

- *Giving life for another*
- *Blind faith*

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Randle Patrick McMurphy thinks he can get out of doing work while in prison by pretending to be mad. His plan backfires when he is sent to a mental asylum. He tries to liven the place up a bit by playing card games and basketball with his fellow inmates, but the evil Nurse Ratchett is intent on crushing any such antics. Summary written by Colin Tinto.

Discussion Points:

- *Allegorical Christ Story?*
- *Personal Search*
- *Human Freedom*

- *Healing*
- *Redemption*

The Others (2001, Certificate 12)

A woman named Grace retires with her two children to a mansion on Jersey, towards the end of the Second World War, where she's waiting for her husband to come back from battle. The children have a disease which means they cannot be touched by direct sunlight without being hurt in some way and they live alone by oppressive, almost religious rules, until Grace decides she needs to hire a group of servants to help her cope. Their arrival upsets the regimentation and leads to unexpected consequences. (Summary by David Villalmanzo)

Discussion Points:

- *Superstition*
- *Afterlife*
- *Limbo*

Pale Rider (1985, Certificate 15)

Clint Eastwood is a mysterious preacher who comes to a gold mining camp near a small town in the mountains. The miners are in grave danger as a ruthless landowner decides to take their land, with the support of the sheriff. The only one who seems brave enough to save them is this preacher who came from nowhere. Nobody knows his past or his real name. Why is the sheriff afraid of him? Why is he such a good shooter? Is he really a preacher? Summary written by Chris Makrozahopoulos

Discussion Points:

- *Christ Figure?*

Pan's Labyrinth (2006, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Accompanied by her parents, Ofelia moves from a large Spanish city to a more rural area in the North of the country. Faced with the upheaval of moving home, an abusive stepfather and the general unpleasantness surrounding Franco's victory in 1944, Ofelia enters an imaginary world of creatures and demons, in a bid to escape. From Guillermo del Toro, the visionary director of *THE DEVIL'S BACKBONE* and *CRONOS* comes this frightening, yet fantastical film. (Uncredited review from Amazon.com)

Discussion Points:

- *Fantasy world*
- *Child abuse*
- *Paganism*
- *Fascism*

Paradise Now (2005, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Two Palestinians prepare to act as suicide bombers in Israel, but all does not go according to plan. Dark humour and big issues in this film made on location under the most difficult conditions.

Discussion Points:

- *Terrorism*
- *Israel/Palestine*
- *Islam*

The Passion of the Christ (2004, Certificate 18)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Directed by Mel Gibson, *The Passion of The Christ* focusses on the last twelve hours of Jesus' life. The film begins in the Garden of Olives where Jesus (played by Jim Caviezel) has gone to pray after sitting the Last Supper. Here he must resist the temptations of Satan and then face the betrayal by Judas Iscariot. Jesus is then arrested and taken within the city walls of Jerusalem where leaders of the Pharisees confront him with accusations of blasphemy and his trial results in his condemnation to death. Summary by James Hutchinson.

Discussion Points:

- *Historical accuracy in film*
- *Anti-Semitism argument*
- *Physical suffering and redemption*

Pay It Forward (2000, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Young Trevor McKinney, troubled by his mother's alcoholism and fears of his abusive but absent father, is caught up by an intriguing assignment from his new social studies teacher, Mr. Simonet. The assignment: think of something to change the world and put it into action. Trevor conjures the notion of paying a favour not back, but forward--repaying good deeds not with payback, but with new good deeds done to three new people. Trevor's efforts to make good on his idea bring a revolution not only in the lives of himself, his mother and his physically and emotionally scarred teacher, but in those of an ever-widening circle of people completely unknown to him. Summary written by Jim Beaver.

Discussion Points:

- *Commitment*
- *Domestic violence*
- *Bullying*
- *"Think of an idea to change the world and put it into action". The challenge of living a life as determined by a principle of unselfish goodness*

Philadelphia (1993, Certificate 12)

A gay lawyer stricken with AIDS seeks assistance from a homophobic personal injury attorney when a prestigious Philadelphia law firm fires him for incompetence. Not the standard 'issue' movie or even the standard courtroom drama but a sensitive and heartfelt look at the affect of AIDS on family, friends and the people who interact with an AIDS victim. Summary written by Keith Loh.

Discussion Points:

- *HIV/AIDS*
- *Prejudice*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Human Rights*

The Pianist (2003, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A film about a Holocaust survivor, directed by a Holocaust survivor. Wladyslaw Szpilman, the hero of this award-winning film, is a Jewish concert pianist who survives the Holocaust as executed by the Nazis in Poland. The film manages to combine Szpilman's point of view with a truly epic sweep.

Discussion points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Judaism*
- *Fascism*

Pinocchio (1940, Certificate U)

One of puppet-maker Geppetto's creations comes magically to life. This puppet, Pinocchio, has the desire to become a real boy someday. In order to accomplish this goal he has to learn to act responsibly. This film shows you the adventures on which he learns valuable lessons.

Discussion Points:

- *Creation*
- *Good/Evil*
- *Humanity*
- *See Also AI*

***Pitch Black* (2000, Certificate 15)**

A transport ship containing 40 passengers heading to emigrate to other worlds and for one passenger, a prisoner, Riddick, to complete his sentence. The ship encounters a meteor storm and crash lands on a barren planet with only 1/4 of its complement surviving. Survival is tough with Riddick on the loose and no water in sight. However, come nightfall, they have even more to fear. Summary written by Jeff Mellinger.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam*
- *Good and Evil*
- *Personal Search*
- *Redemption*

***Pleasantville* (1998, Certificate 12)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

David, single, lonely and not happy with his life, flees reality by watching Pleasantville, a 1950's b&w soap opera where everything is just pleasant. His sister Jennifer, sexually far more active than her brother, gets in a fight with him about a very strange remote control - given to them just seconds after the TV broke by an equally strange repair man - and they suddenly find themselves in Pleasantville, as Bud and Mary-Sue Parker, completely assimilated and therefore black and white, with new parents...pleasant ones. David wants to get out of the situation as well as his sister, but whereas he tries to blend in (effortlessly, with his foreknowledge), she does what she likes. The more rules are broken, the more colourful life gets in Pleasantville, USA. Summary written by Julian Reischl.

Discussion Points:

- *Allegorical retelling of the Garden of Eden story with a twist – Eve brings freedom and revolution not chaos and decay?*
- *Use of colour in film*

***Powagqatsi – Life in Transformation* (1988, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The movie begins with a shot of an African diamond mine. You see a miner ascending a ladder in slow-motion, carrying a bag of mud on his shoulders, accompanied by heavy, pounding music. The effects and the music work together to highlight the miner's tiredness and strain. Other images follow, most of them from the third world. In each case the focus is not a thing, but a quality. Without a narrator, Powagqatsi shows a vastness and variety and energy in the world. Summary written by John Hensley.

Discussion Points:

- *Developing World*
- *Life*
- *Creation*
- *Justice*
- *Human Rights*

The Power of One (1992, Certificate 12)

Story of young English boy 'P.K.' and his passion for changing the world. The only English boy in an Afrikaans school he is orphaned and placed in the care of a German "Doc". Doc develops P.K.'s piano talent and P.K. becomes an "assistant gardener". After WWII begins Doc is placed in prison for failure to register with the English government as a foreigner. P.K. visits and meets Geel Piet, an inmate, who teaches him to box. Piet spreads the myth of the Rainmaker, the one who brings peace to all of the tribes. P.K. is cast in the light of this myth. After the war P.K. attends an English private school where he continues to box. He meets a young girl, Maria, with whom he falls in love. Her father, is a leader of the Nationalist Party of South Africa. The two fight to teach the natives English as P.K.'s popularity grows via the myth. Maria is killed. P.K. loses focus until he sees the success of his language school among the tribes. He continues the work in hopes of building a better future for Africa. Summary written by Greg Brunson.

Discussion Points:

- *Apartheid*
- *Racism*
- *Prejudice*
- *Human Rights*

Priest (1994, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A Priest tries to reconcile his love for another man with his love for God, but when a girl steps into the confessional and reveals that her father sexually abuses her, he's frustrated by the laws of the church and questions his faith in a God who would allow this to happen. Summary written by R. John Berggren.

Discussion Points:

- *Catholicism*
- *Vocation*
- *Sexual Abuse*
- *Homosexuality*
- *Faith and Commitment*
- *Justice and Forgiveness*

The Prince of Egypt (1998, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Egypt, BC: Pharaoh Seti commands all male Hebrew babies to be drowned. A desperate mother places her son in a basket and lets the Hebrew God guide it along the river. The basket is found by the Queen, and Moses is brought up as a brother to the heir of the throne, Ramses. Years later, the brothers, who grew up happy and wealthy, are split by Moses' recognition of his true heritage and the suppressing system his brother is about to inherit, willing to carry it on. Fleeing from the city in despair, Moses finds himself being called by God. He is given the task of being the messenger in order to free the Hebrews and to lead them into a country where milk and honey flow. Summary written by Julian Reischl.

Discussion Points:

- *Judaism*
- *Moses*
- *Oppression and Freedom*
- *Revelation*
- *Religious Experience*
- *Mission*

Pulp Fiction (1994, Certificate 18)

The film initiates with two small-time thieves, Honey Bunny and Pumpkin, who spontaneously decide to hold up a restaurant. The film then shifts to the story of Jules and Vincent, hit men for the well known and feared Marsellus Wallace, who is caught up in a deal gone wrong with struggling boxer Butch Coolidge. Summary written by David Landers.

Discussion Points:

- *Miracle*
- *Coincidence and Fate*

Quiz Show (1994, Certificate 15)

An idealistic young lawyer (Rob Morrow) working for a congressional subcommittee in the late 1950s discovers that TV quiz shows are being fixed. His investigation focusses on two contestants on the show "Twenty-One": Herbert Stempel (John Turturro), a brash working-class Jew from Queens, and Charles Van Doren (Ralph Fiennes), the younger member of one of America's leading literary families. Based on a true story. Summary by Tim Horrigan.

Discussion Points:

- *Facing institutionalised corruption/bullying*
- *Parallel with Civil Rights Movement?*

Raging Bull (1980, Certificate 18)

Based on the life and career of boxer Jake LaMotta, Raging Bull focuses on Jake's rage and violence that makes him virtually unstoppable in the ring. The same anger also drives Jake to beat his wife and his brother Joey, and sends him down a self-destructive spiral of paranoia and rage. Summary by Andrew Hyatt.

Discussion Points:

- *Violence as atonement*
- *Christ figure or anti-Christ figure (not literally 'Antichrist,' but a cinematic anti-hero)*

Raining Stones (1993, Certificate 15)

This Ken Loach film tells the story of a man devoted to his family and his religion. Proud, though poor, Bob wants his little girl to have a beautiful (and costly) brand-new dress for her First Communion. His stubbornness and determination get him into trouble as he turns to more and more questionable measures in his desperation to raise the needed money. This tragic flaw leads him to risk all that he loves and values, his beloved family, indeed even his immortal soul and salvation, in blind pursuit of that goal. Summary by Tad Dibbern.

Discussion Points:

- *Sin*
- *Devotion*
- *Materiality vs. Spirituality*

The Remains of the Day (1993, Certificate U)

Stevens (Anthony Hopkins) is the perfect English butler. Now employed by Mr Lewis (Christopher Reeve), the new American owner of Darlington Hall, Stevens has spent the best part of his working life serving Lord Darlington (James Fox), the host of many prestigious international conferences in the 1930s. It was only when the war broke out in 1939, that Lord Darlington's involvement with the Nazi party was uncovered. Now, twenty years later, Stevens realises that his unquestioning faith and dedication to his duty were misplaced, and cost him dearly in his own personal life. Over several years, he harboured loving feelings for the Estate's attractive young housekeeper, Miss Kenton (Emma Thompson). But his unwavering sense of duty led Stevens to deny his emotions - and eventually drove away the woman he loved. Now he wants to make amends. Based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Discussion Points:

- *Unquestioning faith*

- *Forgiveness*

***Remember the Titans* (2000, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Suburban Virginia, in sight of the Washington monument. Schools have been segregated for generations and when one black and one white high school are forced to close, the students are sent to T.C. Williams High School to integrate. The academic year is seen through the eyes of the football team and its coaches: one black, who is given overall control, and one white (and previously very successful), who is passed over for the job. Based on the actual events of 1971, the team becomes the unifying symbol for the community as the boys and the adults learn to depend on and trust each other. Summary by John Vogel.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*
- *Segregation*

***Resurrection* (1980, Certificate 15)**

Edna McCauley (Ellen Burstyn) experiences the after-life for a brief time after a car accident that kills her husband. As she begins her long process of physical recuperation she discovers that she has the ability to heal physical infirmities. While most people simply accept her gift, her lover (Sam Shepard) becomes mentally unbalanced at the prospect because she does not seem to place the healings within a religious context. Summary by Michael Cieslak.

Discussion Points:

- *Miracles*
- *Medical Ethics*

***A River Runs Through It* (1992, Certificate PG)**

Based on the novel by Normal Maclean, *A River Runs Through It* is a true story about two boys Norman (Craig Sheffer) and Paul (Brad Pitt) growing up in Montana. One is rebellious of his father, Rev. Maclean (Tom Skerrit), while the other has his feet on the ground. The one love they both have is Fly Fishing. A beautifully directed film by Robert Redford. Summary written by Kale Whorton.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*

***Romero* (1989, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In El Salvador, the new bishop speaks out against the death squads and the terror campaign the government is using in an attempt to crush the guerrilla war that is being waged against them. This is seen as disloyalty and the number of priests attacked goes up and even churches are shut down by the government. Based on a true story, Romero continues to oppose the violence as the stakes are continually raised. Summary written by John Vogel.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Catholicism*
- *Oppression and Freedom*
- *Human Rights*

***Rules of Engagement* (2000, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

A marine commander is accused of slaughtering innocent civilians (who actually were shooting at him and his men). He must rely on an old Marine buddy--a lawyer played by

Tommy Lee Jones--to get him through the jury-rigged court martial. (Adapted from a review by Marshall Fine on Amazon.com.)

Discussion Points:

- *Vietnam*
- *War*
- *Injustice*

***Salaam Bombay* (1988, Certificate 15)**

The story of Krishna, Manju, Chillum and other children on the streets of Bombay. Sometimes they can get a temporary job selling tea, but mostly they have to beg for money and keep out of the way of the police. Summary written by Mattius Thuresson.

Discussion Points:

- *Street Children*
- *Poverty*
- *Oppression*

***Saved!* (2004, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Mary is a good Christian girl who goes to a Christian high school in Baltimore, where she has Christian friends and a perfect Christian boyfriend, Dean. Her life seems perfect, until the day that she finds out that Dean may be gay. After "seeing" a vision of Jesus in her pool, she does everything in her power to help him turn straight, including offering up her virginity. But none of it helps because Dean is sent to a "degayification" center and Mary ends up pregnant. It's during her time of need that she becomes real friends with the school's set of "misfits." (Summary by Will)

Discussion Points:

- *Social Exclusion*
- *Stereotypes*
- *Sexuality*

***Saving Private Ryan* (1998, Certificate 15)**

In World War II, it is found that 3 soldiers killed in action are brothers. The mother will be receiving three death notices on the same day. The army then discovers that there were actually four brothers and so a mission is deployed to find Private James Ryan and send him home. Summary written by Jared Johnson.

Discussion Points:

- *War*
- *Personal Search*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Memorial*
- *Historical Accuracy*

***Schindler's List* (1993, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Oskar Schindler is a vain and greedy German businessman who becomes unlikely humanitarian amid the barbaric Nazi reign when he feels compelled to turn his factory into a refuge for Jews. Based on the true story of Oskar Schindler who managed to save about 1100 Jews from being gassed at the Auschwitz concentration camp. A testament for the good in all of us. Summary written by Harald Mayr.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Heroism*
- *Righteous Gentile*

- *Sacrifice*
- *Auschwitz*
- *Use of colour in film*

Scrooged (1988, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Frank Cross runs a US TV station which is planning a live adaptation of Dickens' Christmas Carol. Frank's childhood wasn't a particularly pleasant one, and so he doesn't really appreciate the Christmas spirit. With the help of the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future, Frank realises he must change. Summary written by Rob Hartill.

Discussion Points:

- *Christmas*
- *Conversion*
- *Ghosts*
- *Afterlife*

The Sea Inside (2004, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The life story of Spaniard Ramón Sampedro, who fought a 30-year campaign to win the right to end his life with dignity. The film explores Ramón's relationships with two women: Julia, a lawyer who supports his cause, and Rosa, a local woman who wants to convince him that life is worth living. Through the gift of his love, these two women are inspired to accomplish things they never previously thought possible. Despite his wish to die, Ramón taught everyone he encountered the meaning, value and preciousness of life. Though he could not move himself, he had an uncanny ability to move others.

Discussion Points:

- *Euthanasia*
- *Sanctity of Life*
- *Disability*

Secrets and Lies (1996, Certificate 15)

Cynthia lives in London with her sullen street-sweeper daughter. Her brother has been successful with his photographer's business and now lives nearby in a more upmarket house. But Cynthia hasn't even been invited round there after a year. So, all round, she feels rather lonely and isolated. Meanwhile, in another part of town, Hortense, adopted at birth but now grown up, starts to try and trace her mother. Summary written by Jeremy Perkins.

Discussion Points:

- *Racism*

The Serpent's Egg (1977, Certificate 18)

How did Nazism grow in an advanced, civilised country like Germany? *The Serpent's egg* portrays the hysteria and desperation of the Weimar Republic (the German inter-war government) at the time of the failed Munich Putsch. An out-of-work circus acrobat and his girlfriend volunteer to take part in scientific experiments that overstimulate their emotions to a frightening extent. The experimenter, we assume, is helping to lay the foundations of the notorious experiments later carried out on concentration camp prisoners.

Discussion points:

- *Evil*
- *Nazism*
- *Science*
- *Holocaust*

Se7en (1995, Certificate 12)

A film about two homicide detectives' desperate hunt for a serial killer who justifies his crimes as absolution for the world's ignorance of the Seven Deadly Sins. The movie takes us from the tortured remains of one victim to the next as the sociopath "John Doe" sermonizes to Detectives Sommerset and Mills - one sin at a time. The sin of Gluttony comes first and the murderer's terrible capacity is graphically demonstrated in the dark and subdued tones characteristic of film noir. The seasoned and cultured Sommerset researches the Seven Deadly Sins in an effort to understand the killer's modus operandi while green Detective Mills scoffs at his efforts to get inside the mind of a killer. Summary written by Mark Fleetwood.

Discussion Points:

- *Seven Deadly Sins*
- *Religious Conviction v Insanity?*
- *Misuse of religious symbolism*

Seven Years in Tibet (1997, Certificate PG)

Heinrich Harrer is an Austrian national and a Nazi sympathizer. He leaves Austria in 1939 to climb a mountain in the Himalayas. Through a series of circumstances (including POW camp), he and fellow climber Peter Aufschnaiter become the only two foreigners in the Tibetan Holy City of Lhasa. There, Heinrich's life changes forever as he becomes a close confidant to the Dalai Lama. Summary written by Afterburner.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*
- *Buddhism*
- *Dalai Lama*
- *Tibet*
- *Conversion*

The Seventh Seal (1957, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

One of the few truly great films ever made, *The Seventh Seal* was affectionately sent up in *Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey*. Bergman's masterpiece encapsulates all that was most valuable in the Medieval mind-set. It is so convincing that one can almost imagine it was made in Medieval Sweden and not just set there. A young family of strolling players is threatened by the allegorical figure of Death himself. Can the Knight (Max von Sydow) save them?

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Allegory*
- *Personification*
- *Medieval Christianity*
- *Vocation*
- *Visions*

Shoah (1985, Certificate PG)

Claude Lanzmann directed this 9 1/2 hour documentary of the Holocaust without using a single frame of archive footage. He interviews survivors, witnesses, and ex-Nazis (whom he had to film secretly since they only agreed to be interviewed by audio). His style of interviewing by asking for the most minute details is effective at adding up these details to give a horrifying portrait of the events of Nazi genocide. He also shows, or rather lets some of his subjects themselves show, that the anti-Semitism that caused 6 million Jews to die in the Holocaust is still alive in well in many people that still live in Germany, Poland, and elsewhere. Summary written by Gene Volovich.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Anti-semitism*
- *Racism*
- *Genocide*
- *Testimony*

***Shadowlands* (1993, Certificate U)**

CS Lewis is the author of the Narnia books - *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Known as Jack, he teaches at an Oxford College, during the 1930's. An American fan, Joy Gresham, arrives to meet him for tea in Oxford. It is the beginning of a love affair. Tragically Joy becomes terminally unwell, complicating their love and his faith. Summary written by Matthew Stanfield.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *C.S. Lewis*
- *Personal Search*
- *Love*
- *Death*
- *Suffering*
- *Problem of Evil*

***Shallow Hal* (2002, Certificate 12)**

Despite his own unprepossessing appearance, Hal is very fussy about how his girlfriends look. A magic spell causes him to see the inner beauty (or ugliness) of people expressed as conventional visual beauty. He falls in love with a girl who looks like Gwyneth Paltrow to him, but is actually several sizes larger.

Discussion points:

- *Stereotypes*
- *Self-image*
- *Virtue*

***The Shawshank Redemption* (1994, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Andy Dufresne is a young and successful banker whose life changes drastically when he is convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife and her lover. Set in the 1940's, the film shows how Andy, with the help of his friend Red, the prison entrepreneur, turns out to be a most unconventional prisoner. Summary written by Martin Lewison.

Discussion Points:

- *Crime & Punishment*
- *Personal Search*
- *Hope*
- *Freedom*

***Shine* (1996, Certificate 12)**

Based on the true story of Australian pianist David Helfgott, this delightful movie charts the early and traumatic early years. Telling the story in flashback we see David as he grows up and into a child prodigy while his father abuses him and his siblings with the memory of his childhood in Europe and the loss of his family in the concentration camps. David finally breaks away from his father and goes away to study overseas, he later suffers a breakdown and returns to Australia and a life in an institution. Many years later he is released and through several twists

of fate (in reality even more unlikely than film portrays) he starts playing a piano in a bar before finally returning to the concert hall. Summary written by Alan.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Mental illness*
- *Personal Search*
- *Inspiration/gift*

***Shrek* (2001, Certificate U)**

In a faraway land called Duloc, a heartless ruler, the midget Lord Farquaad (voiced by John Lithgow) has banished all the fairy tales from the land so it can be as boring as he is. But there are three characters who will stand in his way. The first is a green, smelly ogre with a heart of gold named Shrek (Mike Myers), his faithful steed, a Donkey (Eddie Murphy), who will do anything but shut up, and the beautiful but tough Princess Fiona (Cameron Diaz), whom Lord Farquaad wishes to make his wife so he can become king of Duloc. What's to do in a screwy fairy tale like this? Summary written by Will.

Discussion Points:

- *Stereotypes*
- *Pilgrimage*
- *Personal Search*

***The Siege* (1998, Certificate 15)**

After the abduction by the US military of a Muslim religious leader, New York becomes the target of escalating terrorist attacks. Anthony Hubbard, the head of the FBI/NYPD Terrorism Task Force, teams up with CIA operative Elise Kraft to capture the organisation responsible for the terror in NYC. As the bomb attacks go on, the US government decides to send the army into the NYC streets, lead by the General Devereaux, and declares Martial Law. Summary written by Cyril Morcrette.

Discussion Points:

- *Islam (A screen portrayal offensive to many Muslims)*
- *Terrorism*

***Simon Birch* (1998, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Simon Birch believes that God made him for a special purpose. Simon and his best friend Joe Wentworth are both outcasts in their tiny New England town: Joe is the illegitimate son of the town beauty, and Simon, at age 12, is so small that he still plays the infant Jesus in the church Christmas pageant. In the summer of 1964, their friendship is put to the test when Little Leaguer Simon hits a foul ball that strikes and kills Joe's mother. Together, they try to find out who Joe's father is. Just as they succeed, the time comes for Simon to fulfill the destiny he believes in. Summary written by Anthony Bruce Gilpin.

Discussion Points:

- *Fate*
- *Friendship*
- *Divine Intervention*
- *Chance*

***Sister Act* (1992, Certificate PG)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Sister Act is about a Reno lounge singer named Deloris Van Carter who witnesses her mobster boyfriend killing an employer. She is then hidden in a convent under a witness protection program. She soon makes friends with the nuns, especially Sister Mary Robert, Sister Mary

Lazarus and Sister Mary Patrick. After the Mother Superior catches Deloris going out to a bar in the night and followed by Mary Robert and Mary Patrick she orders her to join the church choir, only to find her coaching the choir and turning them into swingin' singin' sisters. The choir proves to be a big success with the surrounding neighbourhood, but will Deloris' boyfriend track her down? Summary written by Chantel Cotterell.

Discussion Points:

- *Christianity*
- *Religious Order*
- *Personal Search*

***Sixth Sense* (2000, Certificate 12)**

A psychiatrist is given a second chance – he can try to help a boy who appears to be mad, but may only have an extraordinary special power or 'sixth sense'. The case allows the psychiatrist to achieve 'closure' on the case of a boy he failed to help years before.

Discussion points:

- *Death*
- *Ghosts*

***Sliding Doors* (1998, Certificate 15)**

A crucial section in the life of a young woman living in modern London is re-played with important variations. One version of her life is disastrous, others are much happier. The film has the effect of making the viewer think about the choices and chances in his or her own life. The structure of alternative narratives is reminiscent of *Run Lola Run!* (see above).

Discussion points:

- *Fate*
- *Chance*
- *Choices*

***Smoke* (1993, Certificate 15)**

The plot of this movie drifts and swirls. Characters and sub-plots are deftly woven into a tapestry of stories and pictures which only slowly emerges to our view. This film tries to convince us that reality doesn't matter so much as aesthetic satisfaction. In Auggie's New York smoke shop, day by day passes, seemingly unchanging until he teaches us to notice the little details of life. Paul Benjamin, a disheartened and broken writer, has a brush with death that is pivotal and sets up an unlikely series of events that afford him a novel glimpse into the life on the street which he saw, but did not truly perceive, every day. Finally, it's Auggie's turn to spin a tale. Summary written by Tad Dibbern.

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Bereavement*
- *Personal Search*

***The Snowman* (1982, Certificate U)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Wordless (save for the song "Walking in the Air") animated adventure about a young English boy who makes a snowman one Christmas Eve, only for it to come to life that night and take him on a magical adventure to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus. Summary written by Jonathan Broxton.

Discussion Points:

- *Creation*
- *Personal Responsibility and Freedom*

***Solaris* (1972, Certificate PG)**

Billed as the 'Russian 2001', *Solaris* is based on the novel of the same name by the Polish science-fiction writer Stanislaw Lem. The crew of a space-station in orbit above the mysterious planet of Solaris is being tormented by the malign influence of the place: dead people from their guiltiest memories are being brought back to life. Later re-made in an American version starring George Clooney.

Discussion points:

- *Sin*
- *Guilt*
- *Memory*
- *Suicide*

***Sophie's Choice* (1982, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Sophie is a survivor of Nazi concentration camps who has found a reason to live in Nathan, a sparkling if unsteady American Jew obsessed with the Holocaust. They befriend Stingo, the movie's narrator, a young American writer new to New York City. But the happiness of Sophie and Nathan is endangered by her ghosts and his obsessions. Summary written by Reid Gagle.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Moral Dilemma*
- *Sacrifice*

***South Park – The Movie* (1999, Certificate 15)**

Southpark is a quiet and peaceful place until the latest Terrance and Philip movie is released. Once all the kids see the R-rated movie, all hell breaks loose, as the parents try to find a way to stop their kids from saying all the naughty words coming out of their mouths. The parents blame Terrance and Philip, place them under Citizen's Arrest, and declare war on their home country, Canada. It is up to the kids to save the world from Satan and keep Terrance and Philip from being executed.

Discussion Points:

- *Censorship*

***Stalker* (1979, Certificate PG)**

'Stalkers' are men who make an illegal living by guiding visitors to the heart of the 'Zone', where one's deepest desires are fulfilled. The catch is that one may not be consciously aware of what one's deepest desires actually are. The forbidden 'Zone' may represent the Capitalist West, as seen from Communist Russia where the film was made.

Discussion points:

- *Desire*
- *Death*
- *Sacred places*
- *Magic*

***Stargate* (1994, Certificate PG)**

The Ancient Egyptian god Ra turns out to be the last surviving member of an evil alien race, who once enslaved humans on earth. The Stargate of the title gives access to another slave colony of humans, on a desert planet in another galaxy. A scientist and a group of very nervous soldiers join in the liberation struggle of the slaves.

Discussion points:

- *Ancient Egyptian religion*
- *Suicide*
- *Nuclear weapons*
- *Slavery*

***Star Trek V: the Final Frontier* (1989, Certificate PG)**

The crew of the Starship Enterprise journey to a dreaded zone at the core of the galaxy, where they seem to encounter God Himself. The film also features Spock's half-brother Sybok, who leads a revolutionary religious movement on a remote desert planet. Sybok's technique of gaining power over people by accessing deep-seated guilt and fear is reminiscent of the 'engram' approach of Scientology. We discover that Dr McCoy's guilt concerns the death of his father.

Discussion points:

- *Scientology*
- *Guilt*
- *God*
- *Euthanasia*

***Star Wars* (1977, Certificate U)**

Part IV in a George Lucas epic, *Star Wars: A New Hope* opens with a rebel ship being boarded by the tyrannical Darth Vader. The plot then follows the life of a simple farmboy, Luke Skywalker, as he and his newly met allies (Han Solo, Chewbacca, Ben Kenobi, C-3PO, R2-D2) attempt to rescue a rebel leader, Princess Leia, from the clutches of the Empire. The film culminates with the Rebels, including Skywalker and flying ace Wedge Antilles make an attack on the Empire's most powerful and ominous weapon, the Death Star. (Summary written by P. Wong)

Discussion Points:

- *Good and Evil*
- *Ultimate Power*
- *Sacrifice*

***The Station Agent* (2003, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Finbar McBride is a seriously reclusive young man who tries to recreate for himself the life of a station agent, living in a remote disused railway station. Attempts by the locals to draw him out of his shell are met with monosyllables, but at last he becomes involved in their lives. The fact that Finbar is a dwarf seems incidental by the end of the story, but much of the film is a laid-back attempt to get the audience to take this tiny man, and all dwarves, seriously.

Discussion points:

- *Prejudice*
- *Love*
- *Friendship*
- *Identity*
- *Heritage*
- *Self-image*
- *Dwarfism*

***Stigmata* (1999, Certificate 18)**

Father Andrew Kiernan (Gabriel Byrne), a researcher of miracles on behalf of the Vatican, must discover the truth behind hairdresser Frankie Paige (Patricia Arquette), who exhibits the

Stigmata, the physical wounds Christ received from his crucifixion. His investigation is riddled with questions as he is torn between helping Frankie and revealing the discovery of a long-lost Gospel that would spell disaster for the future of the Catholic church. (Summary by Eric Chor)

Discussion Points:

- *Historical Accuracy*
- *Miracle*
- *Institutions*

The Straight Story (1999, Certificate U)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Alvin Straight is a very old man with a quiet life in his small country town, Laurens, Iowa. When his brother gets seriously sick, he decides to put away their differences and visit him after many, many years. He undertakes the 300 mile journey to Mt. Zion in Wisconsin on a painfully slow lawnmower, contemplating the world around him as he goes, knowing this trip could be his last. Based on a true story. (Summary written by Chris Makrozahopoulos)

Discussion Points:

- *Pilgrimage*
- *Reconciliation*
- *Forgiveness*
- *Aging*

Taxi Driver (1976, Certificate 18)

Vietnam vet Travis Bickle is alone on the mean streets of New York, solving his his insomnia by driving a yellow cab through the early hours. However, the city's hellish night-life of prostitution and violence has him longing for change: "Someday a real rain will come and wash all the scum off the streets." Failing in his attempts to connect with the only women in his life (he keeps in touch with his mother via fabricated letters about a secret service job in the city, his only date is ruined when he takes Betsy, a Senatorial campaigner, to a porn cinema, whilst his attempt to steer a young girl away from prostitution falls on deaf ears), he seemingly descends into utter frustration. On the edge of madness, driven by powerlessness, he tries to take matters into his own hands.

Discussion Points:

- *Redemption through violence*
- *Sin*
- *Social/moral decay*

Thelma and Louise (1991, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Louise is working in a fast food restaurant as a waitress and has some problems with her friend Jimmy, who, as a musician, is always on the road. Thelma is married to Darryl who likes his wife to stay quiet in the kitchen so that he can watch football on TV. One day they decide to break out of their normal life and jump in the car and hit the road. Their journey, however, turns into a flight when Louise kills a man who threatens to rape Thelma. They decide to go to Mexico, but soon they are hunted by American police. Summary written by Harald Mayr.

Discussion Points:

- *Stereotypes*
- *Personal Search*
- *Suicide*

There's Something About Mary (1998, Certificate 15)

Ted, a high school geek, is going to go to the prom with one of the most popular girls in school, Mary, when he suffers an unusual accident, leading to a postponement of the date. Thirteen years

later he realizes he is still in love with Mary, so hires a private investigator to track her down. That investigator discovers he too may be in love with Mary, consequently giving Ted some false information to keep him away from her. But soon the spiralling array of bizarre and grotesque characters bump into each other and Mary is forced to make a decision. (Summary by Justin Sharp)

Discussion Points:

- *Disability used as humour*
- *Appearances*

***The Thin Red Line* (1998, Certificate 15)**

In World War II, the outcome of the battle of Guadalcanal will strongly influence the Japanese advance into the Pacific. A group of young soldiers is brought in as a relief for the battle-weary Marine units. The exhausting fight for a key airfield that allows control over a 1000-mile radius puts the men of the Army Rifle company 'C-for-Charlie' through hell. The horrors of war mould the soldiers into a tight-knit group, whilst their emotions develop into bonds of love. The reasons for behind the war dissipate as the world for the men becomes a mere fight for their own survival, and the survival of the other men they have come to depend on. (Summary by Julian Reischl)

Discussion Points:

- *War*
- *Faith*
- *Afterlife*

***Time Bandits* (1981, Certificate PG)**

Kevin, an imaginative child, goes on a time-travelling adventure with a bunch of treasure-hunting dwarves, who have "borrowed" a map to the Universe's time holes from The Supreme Being. Summary written by Stewart M. Clamen.

Discussion Points:

- *History*

***A Time To Kill* (1996, Certificate 15)**

A time to kill raises the moral issue of whether there actually is a way you can kill someone and get away with it, in terms of it being justified. This is the tale of a father who kills two men on trial for the near murder of his little child, in a state where the majority of people are white and the jury is white, and perhaps unlikely to convict. Review by Sean Paul McCann (adapted)

Discussion points:

- *Race*
- *Justice*

***Titanic* (1997, Certificate 12)**

The unsinkable ship. The unimaginable catastrophe. The untold stories that lay in mystery two and a half miles beneath the waves of the North Atlantic. What buried tale of love, bravery, treasure and treachery, hidden by time and tragedy, waits here to be discovered? A beautiful socialite. A penniless artist. A priceless diamond. A collision of lives that could only have happened on Titanic, the ship of dreams. The secrets are about to unfold.

Discussion Points:

- *What's really of value? How far would you go to get something you wanted? What's going on in the final scene?*
- *Historical Accuracy*

***Toy Story 1 & 2* (1995 & 2000, Certificate PG & U)**

(You can borrow Toy Story 1 from NERLRC)

Imagination runs rampant when toys become mobile when not watched. Two toys, Woody (Tom Hanks, voicing a simple cowboy doll) and Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen, playing the latest merchandised action figure) despise each other. But, when the toys are separated from their home, a truce is formed between them all in an effort to journey home. Summary written by Joshua Davis.

In "Toy Story 2," the fun and adventure continues when Andy goes off to summer camp and the toys are left to their own devices. Things shift into high gear when an obsessive toy collector kidnaps Woody who unbeknownst to himself is a highly valued collectable. It's now up to Buzz Lightyear and the gang from Andy's room - Mr. Potato Head, Slinky Dog, Rex and Hamm - to spring into action and save their pal from winding up as a museum piece. There's plenty of excitement and fun as the toys get into one predicament after another in their daring race to get home before Andy does. Summary written by Aaron.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*
- *Friendship*
- *Sacrifice*
- *Forgiveness*

Trembling Before G_D (2004, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Docufilm that tells the intimate stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian. The film portrays the profound dilemma of how to reconcile their love of faith and God with the biblical prohibitions on homosexuality. An international project shot over 5 years that asks questions about religious identity and tradition in a modern world.

Discussion Points:

- *Homosexuality*
- *Religious Orthodoxy*
- *Faith*
- *Love*

Truly Madly Deeply (1991, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Once upon a time there were two people in love. Their names were Nina and Jamie. Then Jamie died. Nina is left with a house full of rats and handymen, a job teaching foreigners English and a desire to see her husband again.

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Bereavement*
- *Afterlife*

The Truman Show (1998, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Jim Carrey is Truman, a man whose life is screened, all day every day to a viewing public. The town where he lives is in fact an enormous studio with hidden cameras and microphones everywhere. All his friends, family and colleagues are actors who play their roles in the most popular TV series in the world: The Truman Show. Truman thinks that he is an ordinary man with an ordinary life and has no idea about how he is exploited. But when he gets the urge to travel, to try something different, the world around him is forced to restrain him, stretching itself and its resources to the point of discovery.

Discussion Points:

- *Creation/Creator*

- *Genesis 2*
- *Personal Search*
- *Human Freedom*
- *Environment*
- *Media*

***Unbreakable* (2000, Certificate 12)**

After surviving a series of dangerous accidents, David Dunn encounters the mysterious Mr Glass, who believes him to be a real-life cartoon hero. Dunn begins to explore his powers, which include physical strength and the ability to detect guilt. Dunn's discovery of his true nature revives his flagging marriage and deepens his relationship with his son.

Discussion points:

- *Heroes*
- *Identity*
- *Destiny*
- *Instinct*

***Vera Drake* (2004, Certificate 12 A)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Vera Drake is a selfless woman who is completely devoted to, and loved by, her working class family. She spends her days doting on them and caring for her sick neighbor and elderly mother. However, she also secretly visits women and helps them induce miscarriages for unwanted pregnancies. While the practice itself was illegal in 1950s England, Vera sees herself as simply helping women in need, and always does so with a smile and kind words of encouragement. When the authorities finally find her out, Vera's world and family life rapidly unravel. Summary written by Sujit R. Varma.

Discussion Points:

- *Abortion*
- *Rape*
- *Medical Ethics*
- *Law*
- *Family*

***Very Bad Things* (1998, Certificate 18)**

A stripper is accidentally killed during a stag weekend in Las Vegas. One thing leads to another, and soon the stressed-out stags have two murders to cover up. The real problems start when they have to cope with their remorse back home. Despite the fact that their world is falling apart, the men still have to go through with a large-scale wedding. The Christian Slater character acts as a kind of Satan, spouting motivational gobbledygook to tempt the friends into further crimes. A truly black black comedy. Please note: this film has very strong content and certainly deserves its 18 Certificate.

Discussion points:

- *Peer pressure*
- *Weddings*
- *Guilt*
- *Judaism*
- *Burial rites*
-

***The Virgin Spring* (1960, Certificate 15)**

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Set, like Bergman's *The Seventh Seal*, in Medieval Sweden, *The Virgin Spring* tells an old Swedish folk-tale about the miraculous origins of a spring of water, which appeared just after an innocent young girl was raped and killed.

Discussion Points:

- *Medieval Christianity*
- *Miracles*

***We were soldiers* (2002, Certificate 15)**

War as it truly is: brutal and destructive. *We were soldiers* does not try to glorify war in any way: indeed the scenes of families learning of the deaths of loved ones are very touching. The war scenes themselves are very vivid and powerful; the nighttime scenes are especially well done and you can feel the tension of the soldiers as they wait for battle to commence at any moment. The central character, played by Mel Gibson, is a devout Roman Catholic who cares deeply for his men. Review by Gerard McNamara (adapted)

Discussion points:

- *Vietnam war*
- *Prayer*
- *Theology and war*

***What's Eating Gilbert Grape?* (1993, Certificate 12)**

Gilbert Grape lives in Endora, a place where nothing much happens. The only time the police are occupied is when Gilbert's retarded brother, Arnie, tries to climb up on the water tower nearby. Taking care of Arnie eats up most of Gilbert's time, sandwiched between the hours he must work at the local grocery store. One day a girl his age, Becky, and her grandmother pass through Endora, staying longer than planned due to car trouble. Gilbert falls in love with Becky, but struggles to balance his three time-consuming private lives.

Discussion Points:

- *Personal Search*
- *Stereotypes*
- *Disability*

***What Dreams May Come* (1998, Certificate 15)**

After the death of their two children, Dr. Chris Nielson and his wife Annie find continuing their lives fraught with difficulties, especially for Annie. When Chris dies and goes to Heaven he meets Albert and discovers that Heaven is even more wondrous than anything he could have imagined. However, Chris' death is the last straw for Annie and in her madness commits suicide and journeys to a place very different from Chris. On discovering Annie's misfortune, Chris forces Albert to enlist the help of The Tracker and together they journey into the depths of despair to discover the destiny of Annie's soul and attempt a rescue. Summary written by Mark Smith.

Discussion Points:

- *Death*
- *Bereavement*
- *Heaven*
- *Hell*
- *Limbo*

***When the Wind Blows* (1986, Certificate PG)**

With the help of government-issued pamphlets, an elderly British couple build a shelter and prepare for an impending nuclear attack, unaware that times and the nature of war have changed from their romantic memories of World War II. Summary written by Andy Bogursky.

Discussion Points:

- *Nuclear War*

White Squall (1996, Certificate 12)

A true story about a group of American teenage boys who crew a school sailing ship to gain experience, discipline, or whatever their parents feel they lack. The voyage is a true adventure for them all but it has its downs as well as ups. Summary written by Rob Hartill.

Discussion Points:

- *Journey*
- *Personal Search*

Wild West (1992, Certificate 15)

A young Pakistani, living in England thinks that he is a cowboy and dreams of leading his country music band to success in Nashville. He meets a young woman who leaves her abusive husband and joins their group as a singer, but when they get a break with a record company, the company is only interested in her. Taking the proceeds of the sale of their family home, they finally set out to achieve their dream in Nashville. There are several comic sub-plots as well, the main one revolving around a biker gang out to get the family. Summary written by Blair Stannard.

Discussion Points:

- *Stereotypes*
- *Cultural integration*

Wings of Desire (1987, Certificate 15)

This Wim Wenders film centers around the story of two angels wandering post-war Berlin. Invisible to humans, they nevertheless give their help and comfort to all the lonely and depressed souls they meet. Finally, after many centuries, one of the angels becomes unhappy with his immortal state and wishes to become human in order to experience the joys of everyday life. He meets a circus acrobat and finds in her the fulfillment of all his mortal desires. He also discovers that he is not alone in making this cross over, and that a purely spiritual experience is not enough to satisfy anyone. Summary written by Nell Rehn.

Discussion Points:

- *Angels*
- *Love*
- *Sacrifice*
- *The gift and cost of human freedom.*
- *See also the sequel, Faraway, So Close*

Wise Blood (1979, Certificate 15)

A young, poor war veteran from the Deep South, ambitious but uneducated and unreligious, determines to become something in the world. He decides that the best way to do this is to become a travelling preacher and goes about starting up his own church.

Discussion Points:

- *Inheritance of religion/customs: do we need to be taught religion?*

Witness (1985, Certificate 15)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

Samuel Lap is a young Amish boy who witnesses a murder in Philadelphia while travelling with his mother Rachel. A good cop named John Book must go with them into hiding when the killers come after them. All three retreat to Amish country and Book has to adjust to the new lifestyle, and his feelings for the boy's mother. Of course the killers are still on their trail. Summary written by Greg Bole.

Discussion Points:

- *Christianity*
- *Amish*
- *Community*

Wittgenstein (1993, Certificate 15)

A dramatization, in modern theatrical style, of the life and thought of the Viennese-born, Cambridge-educated philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951), whose principal interest was the nature and limits of language. A series of sketches depict the unfolding of his life from boyhood, through the era of the first World War, to his eventual Cambridge professorship and association with Bertrand Russell and John Maynard Keynes. The emphasis in these sketches is on the exposition of the ideas of Wittgenstein, a homosexual, and an intuitive, moody, proud, and perfectionist thinker generally regarded as a genius.

Discussion Points:

- *Biography*
- *Philosophy*
- *Language*

X-Men (2000, Certificate 12)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

In the near future, where children are being born with a special X-Factor in their genes, giving them special powers, and making them "mutants", the seeds of a new Holocaust are being sewn by Senator Robert Kelly. The situation brings fellow mutants and former friends Erik Lehnsherr, a.k.a. Magneto, and Professor Charles Xavier into opposition. While Xavier seeks to stop the hatred toward mutants peacefully, Magneto seeks to even things out, with a machine that would speed up the mutation process in all humans, making everyone equal. To stop Magneto, Xavier brings together a group of mutants called "X-Men" to stop him. In the meantime, two mysterious mutants, one named Logan, a powerful and aggressive mutant with no past, no memories, and a young girl named Rogue emerge. Their quests for identities eventually land them in the sights of Xavier and Magneto, but for what purpose? Summary written by Justin Clark.

Discussion Points:

- *Holocaust*
- *Prejudice*
- *Racism*
- *Personal Search*
- *Talents*

Yentl (1983, Certificate PG)

(You can borrow this movie from NERLRC)

The story of a highly intelligent Jewish girl named Yentl, who studied the Torah (the Jewish Holy Book) when no other women were able to. After losing her father, she decides to go to a Yeshiva, a Jewish school for priests, where only boys are allowed to enroll. Therefore, Yentl decides to disguise herself as a boy but, predictably, falls in love with a fellow student.

Discussion Points:

- *Judaism*
- *Stereotypes*
- *Scripture*

- *Personal Search*

