



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie: Buchenwald Ball

Time: 53 minutes

Theme: Celebrating Survival

Summary: This film tells the story of several of the 45 orphans among nine hundred boys who were liberated from Buchenwald on April 11, 1945 and were divided into two groups; France & Switzerland. A recruiter from Australia convinced the 45 to go to Australia. This group of 45 became known as the Buchenwald Boys. The film takes four of them and retells their story of the concentration camps and their liberation. They reveal their memories of childhood homes, murdered parents and siblings. One of the "Boys," Szaja Chaskiel, goes back to Poland with his son on the March of the Living and then they travel to Buchenwald to bring final closure to his story. The film takes us back and forth from the Holocaust to their celebratory lives through the planning of the 60th anniversary celebration of their liberation.

Summary Questions:

1. Why was the clock in Buchenwald frozen at 3:15?
2. What was the Buchenwald Ball?
3. What made the survivors start telling their stories later in life?
4. What was the reason Szaja didn't want music at the 60th anniversary ball?
5. What was the compromise over the music at the ball?
6. In what camp did the boys get their number tattoos?
7. What percentage of the prisoners survived the death march to Germany?
8. How did Kalina save the 900 boys from Block 66 from being murdered?
9. How did Sam save himself when everyone in the courtyard square was shot by the Nazis?

Reflective Questions:

1. Describe some of the reasons that the survivors did not want to share their stories with their families.
2. Why did the survivors celebrate with dancing and drinking and singing each year?
3. Why did one of the survivors consider April 11th as his birthday?
4. At the site of the Buchenwald camp how did Szaja's son respond to the question, "Where was God?"
5. How did the "Boys" feel when one of the Buchenwald Boys passes away?
6. How might you respond to the question that the survivors asked as to "Where was God?"
7. What was the bond that kept them together for 60 years?
8. What was Szaja's mother's advice to him if he survives the war?
9. Do you think there will be Buchenwald Balls in the years to come? Why or Why not?



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

STANDARDS:

Middle School

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: *SS.6.W: World History*

Standard 1: *SS.6.W.1 – Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.*

Benchmark: *SS.6.W.1.6 Describe how history transmits culture and heritage and provides models of human character.*

High School

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: *SS.012.G: Geography*

Standard 2: *SS.912.G.2 Understand physical and cultural characteristics of places.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.G.2.1 Identify the physical characteristics and the human characteristics that define and differentiate regions.*

Strand: *SS.912.W: World History*

Standard 7: *SS.912.W.7 Recognize significant causes, events, figures, and consequences of the Great War period and the impact on worldwide balance of power.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.W.7.5 Describe the rise of authoritarian governments in the Soviet Union, Italy, German and Spain, and analyze the policies and main ideas of Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Benito Mussolini, Adolf Hitler and Francisco Franco.*

Strand: *SS.912.S: Sociology*

Standard 4: *SS.912.S.4 Social Groups/Explore the impacts of social groups on individual and group behavior.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.4.11 Discuss how humans interact in a variety of social settings.*

Standard 5: *SS.912.S.5 : Social Institutions/Identify the effects of social institutions on individual and group behavior.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.5.1 Identify basic social institutions and explain their impact on individuals, groups and organizations within society and how they transmit the values of society.*

Standard 6: *SS.912.S.6: Social Change/Examine the changing nature of society.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.6.2 Examine various social influences that can lead to immediate and long-term changes.*

Standard 6: *SS.912.S.8: Individual and Community/Examine the role of the individual as a member of the community; explore both individual and collective behavior.*

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.8.1 Describe traditions, roles, and expectations necessary for a community to continue.*



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

With Special Thanks to the Florida Department of Education

