



Holocaust Memorial Video Streaming Collection Film Guide

Movie: My Dear Clara

Time: 44 minutes

Theme: Perseverance

Summary: This film, as told by her nephew, tells the story of Clara Greenspan who left Montreal for Warsaw to visit family in June of 1938. She is introduced to a brother of a friend by her cousin. They fall in love and marry quickly so that he could leave Poland as the husband of a Canadian citizen as told by the British Embassy in Warsaw. She returned to Canada and began the process of bringing her husband to be with her. At this point, she discovers that she was misinformed. The law allows men to bring wives, but women can't bring husbands. Through the reading of love letters between the two they explore their love and how they can reconnect. Chaim, her husband, escaped to Russia where he survived the war through some difficult years. Nine years later her husband is finally able to get to Canada because of her relentless effort to change the Canadian policies.

Summary Questions:

1. Why did Clara go to Warsaw?
2. What was happening in Europe as Clara began her travels?
3. What started happening to Jews in Warsaw in October 1938?
4. Where do Chaim and Dora go when they are released by the Soviet Union?
5. How did the Canadian government view anyone with communist ideas?
6. What decision did the Canadian government make about immigrants after Kristallnacht?
7. What would happen to a Canadian woman who marries a foreigner?
8. What was the final action that Clara took to change the policies on immigration in Canada?
9. How long did it take for the Visa to be approved once the law was changed?
10. With whom did Chaim reunite in Germany?

Summary and Reflective Questions:

1. How did Chaim meet Clara?
2. What were the laws in Canada about bringing a foreign spouse to Canada?
3. What were the challenges Clara faced to get Chaim to Canada?
4. What did Clara convince her uncle to do and why?
5. What was going on in Europe after Clara left?
6. How does Clara know what was happening in Europe?
7. What were the essence of Chaim's letters to Clara?
8. What happened to Chaim when he crossed the border into the USSR?
9. What happened to the Jews in the Soviet Union when Hitler attacked the USSR?
10. How did Chaim's attitude about communism change after being in Russia?
11. What was Clara's attitude about communism?
12. Identify the steps that Clara took in order to change the immigration laws in Canada?
13. How did their lives change after being reunited in Canada?
14. How does the sixty-year love story end?



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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.1.3: Interpret primary and secondary sources

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

Subject: English Language Arts

Strand: LAFS.68.RH: Reading standards for literacy in History / Social Studies 612

Cluster 1: LAFS.68.RH.1: Key ideas and details

Benchmark: LAFS.68.RH.1.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or a secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Cluster 3: LAFS.68.RH.3: Integration of knowledge and ideas

Benchmark: LAFS.68.RH.3.9: Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic.

HIGH SCHOOL

Subject: Social Studies

Strand: SS.912.W: World History

Standard 1: SS.912.W.1: Utilize historical inquiry skills and analytical processes.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.1.3: Interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources

Benchmark: SS.912.W.1.4: Explain how historians use historical inquiry and other sciences to understand the past.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.1.6: Evaluate the role of history in shaping identity and character.

Standard 7: SS.912.W.7: Recognize significant causes, events, figures, and consequences of the Great War period.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.7.5: Describe the rise of authoritarian government in the Soviet Union, Italy, Germany, and Spain, and analyze the policies and main ideas of Lenin, Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, and Franco.

Benchmark: SS.912.W.7.8: Explain the causes, events, and effects of the Holocaust (1933-1945) including its roots in the long tradition of antisemitism, 19th century ideas about race and nation, and Nazi dehumanization of the Jews and other victims.

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.4.9: Discuss how formal organizations influence behavior of their members.

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



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

Benchmark: *SS.912.S.5.2: Discuss the concept of political power and factors that influence political power.*

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