



London Children's Film Festival 2006: Teachers' Resource

We Shall Overcome (Drømmen) (PG)

Introduction

An engaging story about a young boy standing up for himself and what he believes in, inspired by the words of Martin Luther King and the changes in society in the 1960s. Topics and themes that are raised by *We Shall Overcome* include justice, bullying, standing up for what you believe in, Civil Rights, peaceful protest and changes in society in the 1960s.

Synopsis

It is 1969 and the world is changing. It is changing for 13-year-old Frits living in rural Denmark too. When he starts a new school, two new teachers come into his life. One introduces Frits to new music and the Civil Rights movement. The other is the old fashioned, authoritarian headmaster, who thinks it is acceptable to use corporal punishment. He takes a dislike to Frits and one day he goes too far, injuring him badly when punishing him. Frits has a strong sense of justice. Inspired by the images of Martin Luther King and protests against the Vietnam War he sees on television, his teacher Freddie and his own interest in the abolition of slavery, he decides to stand up for himself against his bullying headmaster.

Audiences

For KS3 and KS4 pupils. The film can be used to support English, Citizenship, PHSE, History and Media Studies teaching.

Curriculum Links and Suggested Classroom Activities



English

- The film is based on real life events the director of the film experienced. Think of experiences of your own you would use to inspire a film or story. Write the story the film synopsis.
- Imagine you are a local journalist reporting on the events at Frits's school. Write a newspaper article. How would you describe what happened?
- Write a review of the film.
- Find out about the term 'counterculture'. Find examples of films and books that have been used to make political and social points.

Citizenship and PHSE

- Frits corrects his teacher on Denmark's involvement in slavery. Research the abolition of slavery. How do consider different nations involvement in slavery today.
- Children in South Africa wrote their own charter of rights. Research the Children's Charter of South Africa. Is there anything you would add to it or change? Write your own version.
- Corporal punishment has been banned in the UK since 1987. Discuss how it would have felt to be disciplined in this way. Write an article or a leaflet against corporal punishment.
- Frits' father has a nervous breakdown. How do local people react? Discuss the attitudes people have to mental health problems these days.
- Bullying takes place in lots of schools and communities. Discuss what action can we all take to help end bullying.

History

- Martin Luther King is very important in American and world history. Research different sources for his involvement in the Civil Rights Movement and write a synopsis of his life.
- Research changes in society in the 1960s. Pick one subject, such as Civil Rights or the Vietnam War and write about the major changes that these historical moments had on society, both in the country they took place and in the wider world.
- Find out more about the abolition of slavery. Who was Wilberforce and what role did he play in the process?

Media Studies

- Watch the films *Billy Elliot* or *The Chorus*, or extracts from those films. Compare them with *We Shall Overcome*. What are the similarities and differences in the two films? Think about the characters, the storylines and the soundtracks.
- The new family television has a strong influence on Frits. He is able to watch Martin Luther King's speeches and other world events. Discuss how television enabled people to find out about current affairs in the 1960s. How would Frits have found out about world events without a television?
- Write a synopsis or create a storyboard for a film based on events that have taken place in your own life.

Weblinks

War Child, London Children's Film Festival charity partner for details of children's rights <http://www.warchild.org.uk/>

The Children's Charter of South Africa

http://www.naturalchild.org/advocacy/south_africa/childrens_charter.html

Martin Luther King and Civil Rights

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/king_martin_luther.shtml

The abolition of slavery

<http://www.learningcurve.gov.uk/snapshots/snapshot27/snapshot27.htm>

Film Trailer (no subtitles)

<http://www.filmtrailer.dk/drommen>

We suggest that teachers and parents check the suitability of recommended books, films and other media for the children in their care before use. London Children's Film Festival cannot be responsible for the content of any recommended media, including websites.

Film Details

Country	Denmark, 2006
Director	Niels Arden
Running time	106 min
Language	Danish with English subtitles









