

RAINBOW WAR

20 minutes, Color

Available in VHS or Laserdisc

Synopsis

Rainbow War is an allegory about tolerance and good will. The kingdoms, the colors, and the postures of the leaders and their subjects represent prejudice and hatred spawned by fear and ignorance. Three kingdoms-Red, Blue, and Yellow-wage a battle for supremacy using paint buckets, brushes, and rollers as weapons and paint as ammunition.

Leader's Guide

Suggested Group Activities

Introducing the film:

1. Using large packs of crayons, pick out all the shades of red, the shades of blue, and the shades of yellow. Give each group of students a cluster of one of the colors. They are to create as interesting a picture as the can, using only those crayons. They then evaluate their picture. Art they happy with it? Why or why not? What would they change about the picture if they could? (They probably will say they would like to use more colors.) They then present their picture to the class. The purpose of this activity it to prepare the students for a film that urges an integration of cultures, symbolized

in the film by various colors.

2. Give each student a potato. The student is to create a life for this potato. Taking the potato to the front of the room, the student presents it to the class. This activity works especially well with ESL students who are just learning English because it is entirely oral and provides practice in the use of everyday, practical English vocabulary. Instructions to the students include:
 - a. Give your potato a name.
 - b. Describe its characteristics
 - c. Give its family history
 - d. Describe the life it leads, its interests, abilities, etc.,

Probably the attributes given to the potatoes will reflect the students' own attitudes. This will help them to understand possible sources of prejudice when they view the film.

Understanding the film:

(Directed to the students)

1. Why do you think the filmmaker chose the colors red, yellow, and blue to represent the three kingdoms? (It may help the students grasp the concept of cultures respecting each other if they compare this to the fact that all colors come from one or more of the primary colors. The first color to be introduced in the film other than the primary colors is green, which is a combination of yellow and blue.)

2. When Yellow boy flies near Blue Kingdom, do Blue King and subjects look frightened? Threatened? Angry? What is their reaction?
3. Yellow Boy's discovery of a way to travel to the other kingdoms sets the motion that leads to the conflict between the kingdoms. Why does Blue Kingdom get the idea to travel? How does his idea reflect the type of kingdom he rules and the way he rules it? Note particularly the bubbles, frills, duck etc.,
4. Why does the Yellow Queen give Yellow Boy a medal? Why does she then become angry and have him dragged away?
5. Why does the Blue King enter Red Kingdom on a blue carpet? Is this friendly gesture? Is he an evil king? Choose scenes from the film to support your answers.
6. Why did the filmmakers choose Red Kingdom as the battlefield? how does this contribute to the flow of the story?
7. After the soldiers accept the green paint, Yellow Queen screams a command that the fighting should continue. Why does she do this?
8. Why is it important to the theme of the film to have Yellow Queen remain free of paint for so long?
9. Do you think Blue King, Red King, and Yellow Queen are evil

people?

10. Who makes the first offensive move, Red or Blue? Why do you think Blue went to Red Kingdom? (to explore? to be friends?) is this in character? (blue saw beauty). If Blue Kingdom went in peace, why did the soldiers take ammunition?
11. Yellow Kingdom is the last kingdom to accept the other two. What are the clues that foreshadowed this? (body language of the queen with her arms folded, Yellow Queen wore dark glasses that prevented her from "seeing" etc.)
12. The leaders of the kingdoms are the last to be won over. What are they afraid of? What do they have to lose?
13. In the film, the kingdoms forget their differences and unite in an effort to rescue Red Princess. Discuss parallels in history, such as city blackouts, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.
14. Do you think the three kingdoms will remain friends? What will happen now? If new conflicts arise, what might they be about?
15. Why might the filmmaker have chosen different colored paint rather than guns, etc., to fight battles? What does the paint symbolize? What do the colors symbolize?
16. In Blue kingdom, what might the duck and the bubbles symbolize?

17. Yellow Queen has multi-colored paint thrown on her by her own subjects. What does this symbolize?

Applying the film
(Directions to the students)

1. What happened to unite the kingdoms? That is, what was the common goal they wanted to achieve? Is it necessary to become someone's friend in order to work toward a common goal?
2. Continue from where the narrator ended and write the rest of the story using the narration as a model. Be sure to include dialog between characters.
3. Choose a time in history and research the types of prejudice, disagreements, wars, etc., that were taking place at that time. Write a short skit using Rainbow War as a model.
4. As a group problem-solving activity, decide what each color in the film might symbolize (race, religion, culture, nationality, gender, gangs, etc.). How does society set up artificial barriers? What can be done to break these barriers? Present your ideas for solutions to the entire class.
5. Design a poster on what can be done to foster a feeling of respect among various groups of students in your school. Display the posters around the school.

Other Pyramid titles dealing with cultural diversity:

Cultural Baggage	9 minutes
Coming Across	30 minutes
There's No Such Thing as a Chanukah Bush, Sandy Goldstein	20 minutes
Halmani	30 minutes
World Song	15 minutes
Senzeni Na?	30 minutes
Bill Cosby on Prejudice	24 minutes

For complete information on these and other titles in the Pyramid Collection, please call us at 800-421-2304 or write to Pyramid Film and Video, P.O. Box 1048, Santa Monica, Ca 90406.

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Notes:

A
Study Guide for

Rainbow War

a film by

BRC Imagination Arts



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