

Favorite Foreign Films That Can Be Used in the Classroom

Title of Film: *Cry of Freedom*

Director: Richard Attenborough

Year: 1987

Rated PG

Nationality: Subject is South African

Approximate time period: 1970's

Connections for the classroom: valuable to introduce reality of apartheid—gives entry to Nadine Gordimer's *July's People*

Title of Film: *Kwaidan*

Director: Masaki Kobayashi

Year: 1965

Not Rated

Nationality: Japanese

Approximate time period: Medieval?

Connections for the classroom: 4 Ghost stories (traditional); "The Black Hair" = "She Died Long Ago" from Japanese lit packet

Title of Film: *Akira Kurosawa's Dreams*

Director: Akira Kurosawa

Year: 1990

Rated PG

Nationality: Japanese

Approximate time period: 1900's

Connections for the classroom: Dream sequence that deals not only with historical issues but poses difficult and complex philosophical questions; Fantastic!

Title of Film: *Spirited Away*

Director (if you know it): Hayao Miyazaki

Year: 2001

Rated PG

Nationality: Japanese

Approximate time period: Modern; *anime*

Connections for the classroom: *Odyssey* (Cecilia's suggestion☺)

Title of Film: *Empire of the Sun*

Director: Steven Spielberg

Year: 1987

Rated PG

Nationality: American—English diplomatic colony in China during WWII

Approximate time period:

Connections for the classroom: Japanese invasion of Shanghai

Title of Film: *Moving the Mountain*

Director: Michael Apted

Year: 1995

Not Rated

Nationality: PBS Special about Chinese democracy movement

Approximate time period: 1980's

Connections for the classroom: About Tiananmen Square; Interview the Revolutionary leaders today in China, USA and France

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Title of Film: *Red Sorghum*

Director: Zhang Yimou

Year: 1989 (VHS)

Not Rated

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 1930's

Connections for the classroom: Japanese invasion of China; gut-wrenching, but good!

Title of Film: *To Live*

Director: Zhang Yimou

Year: 1994

Not Rated

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 1940's-1960's

Connections for the classroom: full length feature, but 4 different sections

Title of Film: *Not One Less*

Director: Zhang Yimou

Year: 1999

Rated G

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 20th Century

Connections for the classroom: Value of an education at all costs and no matter how poor you are; great cinematography

Title of Film: *Hero*

Director: Zhang Yimou

Year: 2004

Rated PG-13

Nationality: Chinese

Approximate time period: 2000 years ago (Emperor Qin)

Connections for the classroom: Hero's Adventure Cycle; links to any story of transformation, sacrifice, etc. [an Amazon.com review mentions it evokes memories of *Rashomon*]

Title of Film: *Shaolin Soccer*

Director: Stephen Chow

Year: 2001

Not Rated

Nationality: Chinese (Hong Kong)

Approximate time period: Present

Connections for the classroom: Great fun movie for students who love sports; A light, humorous movie combining soccer and martial arts

Title of Film: *The Cup*

Director: Khyentse Norbu

Year: 1999

Not Rated

Nationality: Tibet

Approximate time period: 1900's

Connections for the classroom: Tibetan Buddhist monks seek to watch an international soccer game. It's cute, fun and thought-provoking.

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Title of Film: *Himalaya*

Director: Eric Valli

Year: 1999

Not Rated

Nationality: Nepalese/Tibetan

Approximate time period: 1900's

Connections for the classroom: How trade spread Buddhism to Asian countries; Beautiful, scenic, poignant; Intergenerational conflict story

Title of Film: *Bend It Like Beckham*

Director: Gurinder Chadha

Year: 2003

Rated PG-13

Nationality: Indian/British

Approximate time period: Present day

Connections for the classroom: Indiana traditions/culture

Title of Film: *Scotland, PA*

Director: Billy Morrissette

Year: 2001

Rated R

Nationality: American

Approximate time period: modern

Connections for the classroom: *Macbeth*

Title of Film: *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Director: Caspar Wrede

Year: 1988 (VHS)

Rated G

Nationality: Russia

Approximate time period: Gulags in Russia

Connections for the classroom: Post WWII, Cold War

Title of Film: *Au Revoir Les Enfants*

Director: Louis Malle

Year: 1987

Rated PG

Nationality: French

Approximate time period: WWII

Connections for the classroom: Child's view of Holocaust

Title of Film: *Cinema Paradiso*

Director: Giuseppe Tornatore

Year: 1988

Rated R

Nationality: Italian

Approximate time period: WWII

Connections for the classroom: Coming of age film

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Title of Film: *Il Postino*

Director: Michael Radford

Year: 1995

Rated PG

Nationality: Italian

Approximate time period: 1900's?

Connections for the classroom: Poetry—Pablo Neruda; Also CD of movie stars reading favorite Neruda poems

Title of Film: *Life is Beautiful*

Director: Roberto Benigni

Year: 1998

Rated PG-13

Nationality: Italian

Approximate time period: WWII

Connections for the classroom: Anouilh's *Antigone* *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. The kids adore this film!!

Title of Film: *Nowhere in Africa*

Director: Caroline Link

Year: 2002

Rated R

Nationality: German

Approximate time period: Holocaust

Connections for the classroom: Characters flee Nazi Germany

Title of Film: *Hallo Berlin*

Director (if you know it):

Year:

Rated:

Nationality: German

Approximate time period: 1989-1990

Connections for the classroom: Political comedy about collapse of Berlin Wall and son's love of his mother. Can be used with our 2 Korean short stories about communist father's who return to South Korea to their 1st families.