



Ashes in the Snow

Lesson Plan

A 2018 movie about things that took place during World War II in Lithuania. The film follows the life of a 16-year-old aspiring artist and her family as they are deported to Siberia during the dismantling of the Baltic region by Stalin.

Warning: This film is not suitable for children and some youth. This film strives to authentically show the interactions between guards and those in these camps. It has depictions of atrocities that took place during these times, insinuating or showing, but not limited to, suicide, murder and rape, among other things.

The film can be streamed through the following platforms: Peacock, Freevee, Roku and Tubi.

The screenplay was written by Ruta Sepetys and Ben York Jones.

Questions for after viewing:

Not all questions are meant to be outwardly discussed but are intended to encourage reflective thinking.

1. What do Ruta Sepetys and Ben York Jones desire for us to know or learn from viewing this film?
2. How does “Ashes in the Snow” express or depict relationships among Eastern European nations? Or relationships between people?
3. Which character resonated with you the most? Why?
4. What effect did these events have on all of the characters involved?
5. What happens when your hope is taken away?
6. How do characters deal with their trauma?
7. How does each character encounter their circumstances? Does that change as the story goes on?
8. What does the ending say or proclaim? What if the movie had been written for different audiences? Would that change the ending?
9. What allowed the teenage girl and her brother to survive?
10. Consider your own journey. Does the film cause you to reflect on a time or event in your life? What feelings, reactions or thoughts stir?
11. What might we be hiding from in our own history, personal or otherwise?

