

After'16 Short Film Collection Worksheet

A Father's Letter

Recommended age: 12+

Suggested Class: TY/Senior English/History/Politics & Society/TY Film

Themes: 1916, Religious Life & Overseas Missions, China & Hong Kong, Sacrifice

1. Listening, Watching and Discussion:

Watch the film through once and try to answer these questions:

- Who is the narrator of the film?
- Where is the first location? Why is he here?
- Where is the second location?
- What does the letter-writer ask his children to do?
- Where did Joseph Mallin go after he was ordained?
- Why did the people have to move?
- What does he mean by this: 'Because they had to take the price'?
- Do you think the narrator fulfilled his father's wish?

2. History:

a. Choose three pieces of historical evidence that exist in the film. How reliable are each of these sources?

b. What do you think this means?

'When the people were bitterly opposed to the trouble they considered was being brought on Ireland'.

c. Name the three other figures from Irish history mentioned in the film. Do you know what each of these men did?

d. Fr Mallon compares Arthur Griffith's funeral with events of Tianamen Square. Find out what happened on Tianamen Square. Is it a useful comparison do you think?

3. Creative Writing

Seamus Mallon's letter to his wife had a lasting impact. Choose a period in history and write your own letter from the point of view of someone living through the particular event.

4. Discussion

Fr Mallon says this towards the end of the film. "Or they wouldn't have the life they have now If these people hadn't got that courage And we're inspired to live up to these things". What do you think he means? Do you agree?

Do you think this film is a good commemoration of 1916?