

DISCOVERY FILM FESTIVAL

Scotland's International Film Festival
for Young Audiences



Teachers' Resource: Secrets of War

Levels 2, 3 and 4

Created by Sheena Lusby

Discovery Film Festival: Sat 22 October – Sun 6 November 2016

discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk

DCA

Dundee Contemporary Arts


EUROPA CINEMAS
MEDIA-PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

DUNDEE
ONE CITY, MANY DISCOVERIES


ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

© Dundee Contemporary Arts 2016

With support from DCA Cinema and DCA Community & Education Team



Introduction

Discovery Learning Resources give you exciting classroom activities to enhance Curriculum for Excellence delivery.

They are created by classroom teachers and education professionals. Each resource aims to:

- support and extend working with film in the classroom
- help prepare teachers for a class visit to a Discovery Film Festival film and to extend the impact of that visit for delivery of CfE
- develop confidence in Moving Image Education approaches and working with 21st Century Literacy / moving image texts

Each resource is free and available to download from
www.discoveryfilmfestival.org.uk/resources



Secrets Of War

Dir: Dennis Bots

Netherlands/Belgium/Luxembourg 2014 / 1h34m

Synopsis

This film is set in the South Limburg region of the Netherlands in 1943 during the Second World War. It shows ordinary family life against a backdrop of Nazi occupation. Tuur and Lambert, 12 year old school friends lead quite ordinary lives at school, and at play in the forests and caves near their village but is everything actually that 'ordinary'? Family loyalties and family secrets cause doubt and uncertainty. The catalyst for much of the subsequent unrest is the arrival at school of new girl Maartje which sees the two boys compete for her friendship. Jealousy and indeed 'secrets' and misunderstandings trigger a series of events which lead to a sequence of untold consequences which impinge on many lives.

CFE: Literacy and English, Health and Well Being

Teacher Advisory: There are representations of war-time violence together with the occasional use of strong language ("bloody hell" and "bastard").



Activity 1 – Baseline Assessment

Before watching the trailer children will participate in a Walk About Talk About (WATA) session to gauge the pupils prior knowledge and understanding of WWII. This could be used as a baseline assessment or as a general introduction to the film before viewing the trailer. See Appendix 1 for headings.

- The plight of the Jews during the WWII
- The role of the Nazi Youth
- The countries involved in the fighting during WWII
- Key consequences of war on family life


When I engage with others, I can respond in ways appropriate to my role, show that I value others' contributions and use these to build on thinking. LIT 2-02a

Activity 2 – Evaluation of Poster

Using the official poster for *Secrets of War* the pupils in groups will discuss the poster and offer their opinions on several key questions. (See Appendix 2)

- From the poster what do you think the context is and why?
- Do you think the children in this poster have a clear understanding, at this stage, of the serious events that are going to unfold?
- From this poster are you able to identify a main character, or is there indeed a 'main' character?
- Do you think the girl, from her position in the poster, may be the catalyst for subsequent events?

To help me develop an informed view, I can distinguish fact from opinion, and I am learning to recognise when my sources try to influence me and how useful these are. LIT 2-08a



Activity 3 - Trailer

Using the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4Oc187S7OU> which will take you to the official trailer of Secrets of War, the pupils will initially view the sequences of events. A second viewing will be accompanied by a note-taking activity (see appendix 3) using the following bullet points.

- Who do you think is the main character in this trailer?
- Can you detect any instances of conflict that may arise?
- How important do you think relationships will feature?
- Try to identify possible 'secrets' hinted at during the trailer.

As I listen or watch, I can make notes, organise these under suitable headings and use these to understand ideas and information and create new texts, using my own words as appropriate.

LIT 2-05a

Activity 4 – Group Workshop

The final activity before watching the main film, requires the pupils to work co-operatively, sharing their predictions of possible outcomes which may arise during the main feature. The pupils can use their note taking sheets from Activity 3 to stimulate discussion and debate.

Resources:

- A1 Paper entitled *Secrets of War* in the 'centre'; see appendix 4 for exemplar
- Post it notes

These resources are intended to facilitate a whole class 'thought shower' (brainstorm) where the pupils will write their ideas of the possible outcomes of this film on post its and attach these to the A1 paper. This should lead to further discussion.

I can show my understanding of what I listen to or watch by responding to literal, inferential, evaluative and other types of questions, and by asking different kinds of questions of my own.

LIT 2-07a

I can use my notes and other types of writing to help me understand information and ideas, explore problems, make decisions, generate and develop ideas or create new text. I recognise the need to acknowledge my sources and can do this appropriately. **LIT 2-25a**



Activity 5 – Geographical Links

During the film *Secrets of War* several European countries are mentioned. A good follow up activity would be to clearly identify the locations of these countries and their place on a world map thus giving the pupil a mental image of Europe. Using Google Earth locate the following places related to the film: Holland, Amsterdam, Germany, Britain, Belgium and Greenland.

To extend my mental map and sense of place, I can interpret information from different types of maps and am beginning to locate key features within Scotland, UK, Europe or the wider world.

SOC2-14a

Activity 6 – Ins and Outs Board

This activity is a group, co-operative, decision making exercise. For instructions on how to carry out this task see appendix 5 for an exemplar of the board. The focus for this activity are emotions and feelings featured within the film. The positive emotions and feelings which enhanced this film should be written on the 'Ins' sections of the board. The negative emotions and feelings should be placed in the 'Outs' sections of the board. The circle in the middle of the board is to facilitate a group decision about the two most significant Ins and two most significant Outs. Decisions about positive and negative feelings and emotions are open to debate. In appendix 6 there is a suggested list of words for teacher use.

I am developing confidence when engaging with others within and beyond my place of learning. I can communicate in a clear, expressive way and I am learning to select and organise resources independently. **LIT 2-10a**



Activity 7 – Poster Advertising Secrets of War

Design a poster to promote the feature film. Make your poster eye catching incorporating sufficient detail to stimulate interest and engage audiences. See Appendix 2 for official poster.

*By considering the type of text I am creating, I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in an appropriate way for my purpose and use suitable vocabulary for my audience. **LIT 2-26a***

*I have the opportunity to choose and explore an extended range of media and technologies to create images and objects, comparing and combining them for specific tasks. **EXA 2-02a***

*Through observing and recording from my experiences across the curriculum, I can create images and objects which show my awareness and recognition of detail. **EXA 2-04a***

Activity 8 – Mind Mapping

By featuring three children as the main characters, this film provides an excellent opportunity to examine their individual qualities and characteristics as depicted on screen. See Appendix 7 for pupil sheet.

*I can select ideas and relevant information, organise these in an appropriate way for my purpose and use suitable vocabulary for my audience. **LIT 2-06a***



.....

Activity 9 – Extended Writing

For example:

- What changes could you make to produce an alternative outcome?
- Identify a defining moment/ incident/event in the film which may have influenced the final outcome
- To what extent does 'jealousy' change the behaviour/actions of any of the main characters?
- Does 'loyalty' in all its forms play a part in the actions of the main characters?

I enjoy creating texts of my choice and I regularly select subject, purpose, format and resources to suit the needs of my audience. LIT 2-20a

Activity 10 – Letter Writing

Once Tuur and his family arrive safely in Belgium Tuur is determined to thank Lambert for his loyalty, kindness and enduring friendship. Using this as a stimulus the pupils could write a letter and or draw some pictures of his new life.

I enjoy creating texts of my choice and I regularly select subject, purpose, format and resources to suit the needs of my audience. LIT 2-20a

Throughout the writing process, I can check that my writing makes sense and meets its purpose. LIT 2-23a



Activity 11 – Film Stills

Discuss the influence/significance in this film of trust, loyalty, determination, compassion, friendship and hope using the following 4 pictures/images.





As I listen or watch, I can make notes, organise these under suitable headings and use these to understand ideas and information and create new texts, using my own words as appropriate.

LIT 2-05a



Appendix 1 – Walk About Talk About Headings

These can be cut out and stuck at the top of an A3 piece of paper. Walk About Talk About (WATA). Class divided into groups, in this case there would need to be four groups. Designate a scribe in each group with a different coloured pen. Write down as many ideas as possible for perhaps 2 minutes then move onto the next table with a new heading. Pupils read previous group's ideas and then add more of their own. Once every group has visited each station the class come together for a whole class discussion considering all the contributions.

The plight of the Jews during WWII

The role of the Nazi Youth

The countries involved in the fighting during WWII

Key consequences of war on family life

Appendix 2 – Secrets Of War film poster

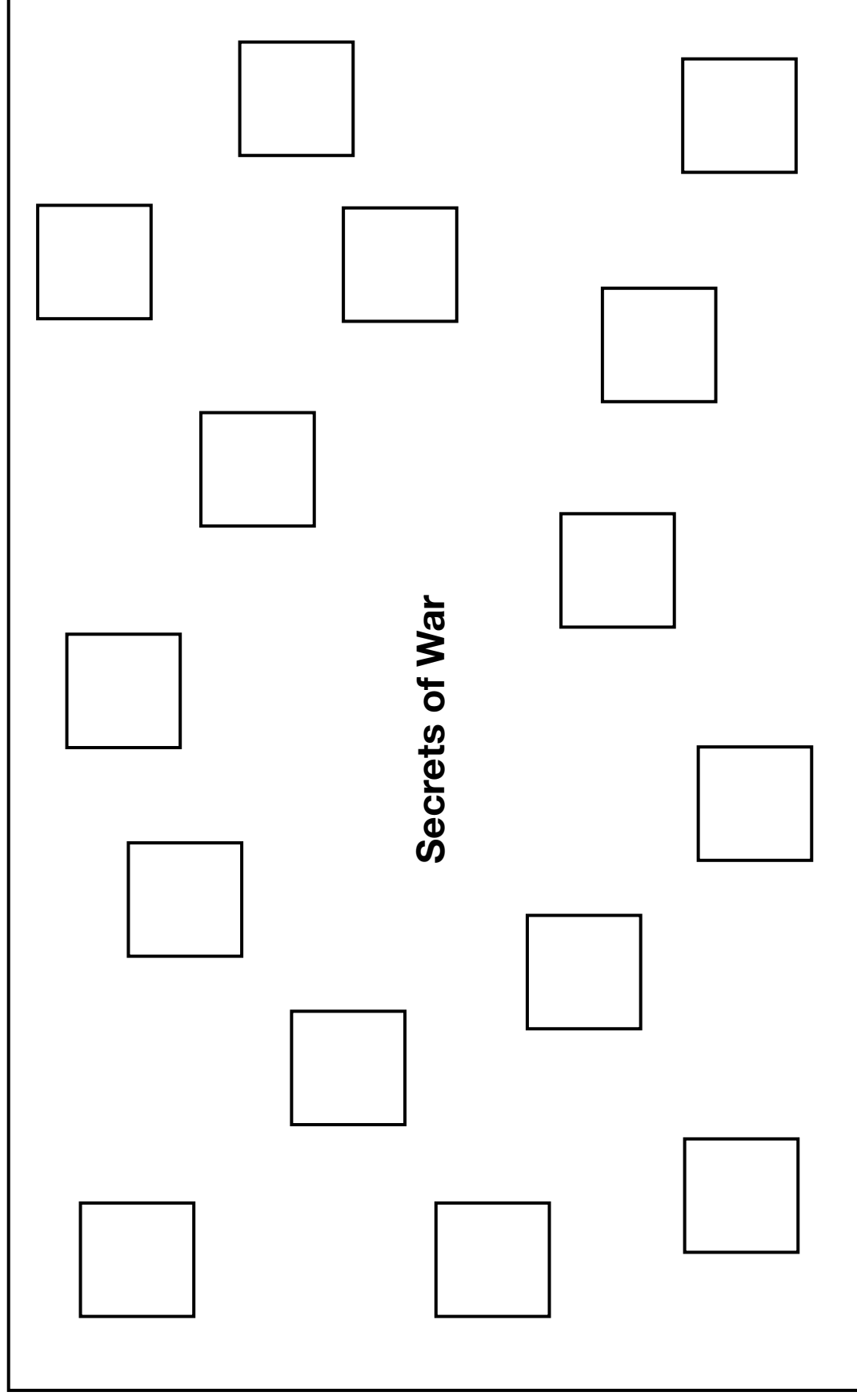




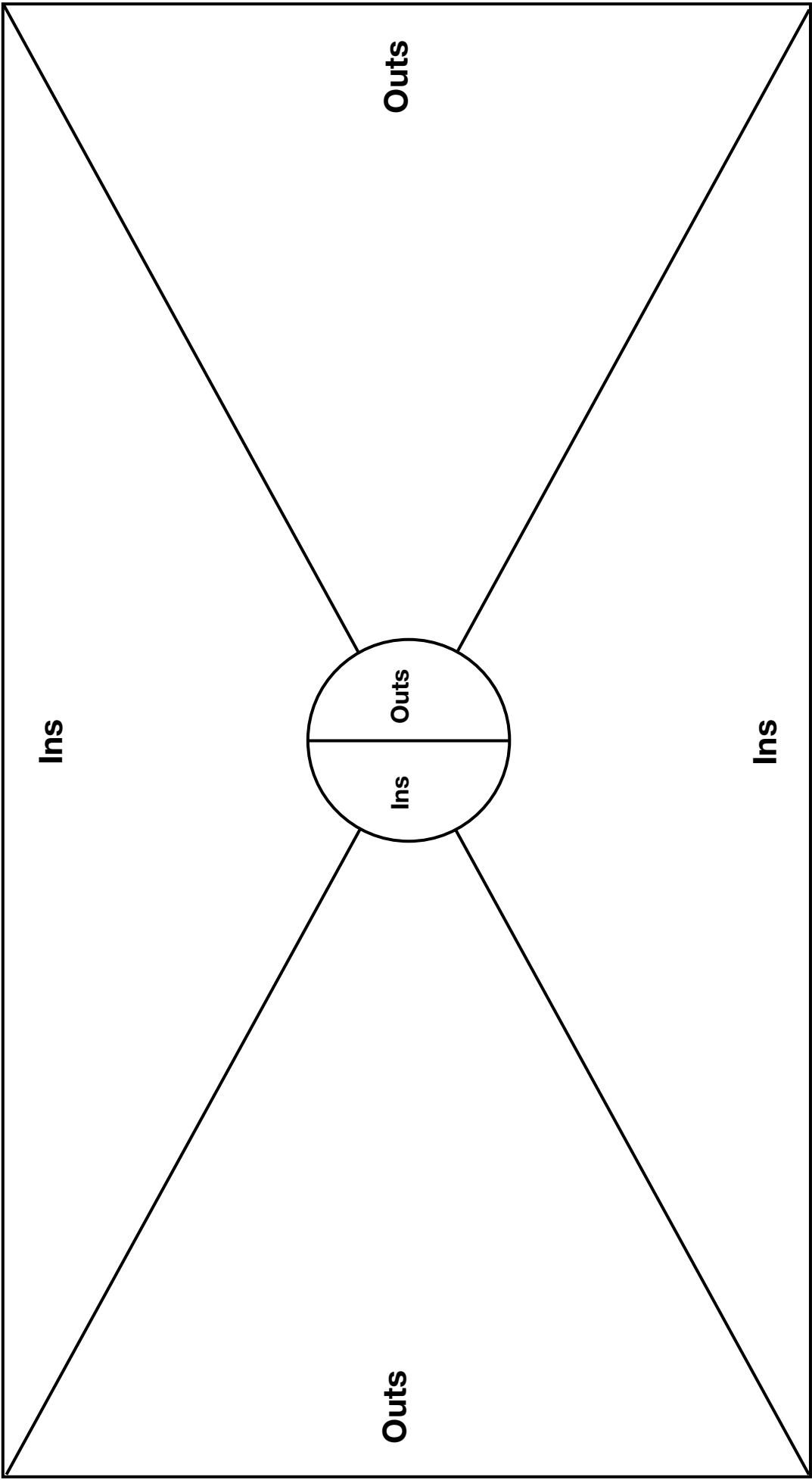
Appendix 3 – NoteTaking Activity

Who do you think is the main character in the trailer?	Can you detect any instances of conflict that may arise?
How important do you think relationships will feature?	Try to identify possible 'secrets' hinted at during the trailer

Appendix 4 – Example – A1 piece of paper with Post Its attached



Appendix 5 – Ins and Outs Board





Appendix 6 – List of suggested words for teachers

Pity

Hope

Confidence

Hatred

Compassion

Guilt

Trust

Distrust

Understanding

Hostility

Despair

Determination

Humiliation

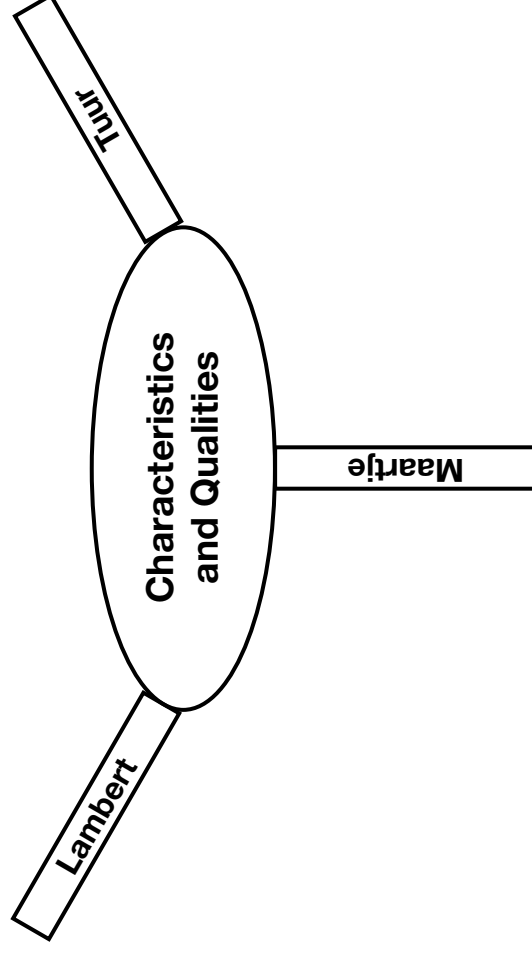
Suspicion

Loyalty

Joy

Friendship

Appendix 7 – Mind Mapping Activity





Evaluating this resource

We hope that you found this resource useful and appropriate.

Please do send us film reviews, letters from your pupils, documentation of classwork and your feedback by e-mailing mike.tait@dca.org.uk

Would you make a good Discovery Film Festival Case Study?

We are seeking a number of simple Case Studies in how teachers have used or are using Discovery films in the classroom across Curriculum for Excellence and across the Levels.

Any case studies that we develop would be intended for presentation on GLOW, the Creativity Portal and on Discovery Film Festival websites. We have a simple template to be completed and are keen to have classwork and documentation included.

If you would like to be a Discovery Case Study please e-mail sarah.derrick@dca.org.uk