



World Cinema
A Simplify Homeschool Class
Winter/Spring 2019
Jill Harper

Who is this class for?

This class is best suited for middle schoolers ages 12-14 who enjoy watching films and would like to be exposed to cinema from around the world. In this class we will be watching both animated and non-animated films and will be touching on a wide range of topics including racism, children who have lost their parents, harsh economic times, and sexism. Because of this a student should be prepared for discussions dealing with these topics. We will be balancing out these tougher topics with other films including one on the cats of Istanbul and a French animated short film about a man who can't stop eating. Please note that even though these some of the films deal with tough topics, they all do so in an age-appropriate way.

Types of assignments:

Every week the students will complete a short response worksheet on the film they have watched and then will respond to topics posted by me in the classroom. In addition they will be required to respond to each other's responses. The purpose of this is to get a

dialogue going between the students and to help them learn to put their thoughts into words and to debate their opinions with others.

In addition each student will have a larger assignment due at the end of each unit that will vary from a critical review of one of the films (this can take on a variety of formats from a formal review to a video review) to a short compare and contrast essay. The students will have a week to work on these assignments and I will be available to them if they have any questions and/or trouble with the work. In addition, I will work with a student and their family if a student has a learning disability. My goal in this class is to make sure all students can participate in a way that is meaningful to them. If you have any questions about the workload and your student please reach out to me.

Assessment:

Like all Simplify Homeschool Classes, we provide a short written assessment of the student and their work for the class. We can provide guidance about assigning a grade if the parent is interested in doing so.

Required resources:

Obviously the student will need to have access to the films. All of the films are available on either Netflix , Amazon, or free online. Please note that several of the films will need to be rented which will add to the cost of the class. Films that have a rental fee have a \$ after the title. Also to note, if any film becomes unavailable on streaming we will have to switch out the film for a different title. For this reason do not have the student watch the films before they are scheduled.

Schedule:

Prior to the first week of class: [The African Doctor](#)

Weeks 1 - 3: Middle East Cinema

1. [The Colour of Paradise](#) (\$) - IMDB Parents [Guide](#)
2. [Bekas](#)
3. [Wadjda](#) (\$) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)

Weeks 4 - 6: Documentary Cinema

1. [A Year Without My Parents](#) & [The Trader](#) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)
2. [Kedi](#) (\$) - IMDB Parents [Guide](#)
3. [The Revolutionary Optimists](#) (\$) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)

Weeks 7 - 9: Classic Cinema

1. [The Bicycle Thieves](#) (\$) - IMDB Parents [Guide](#)
2. [Aparajito](#) (\$)
3. [The Red Balloon](#) (\$) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)

Weeks 10 - 12: Animated Films

1. [The Old Lady and the Pigeon](#) & [April and the Extraordinary World](#) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)
2. [The Breadwinner](#) (\$) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)
3. [Your Name](#) (\$) - Common Sense Media [Review](#)