



## **HMD08 Film Synopsis**

The short film Imagine...remember reflect react has been produced for local community commemorations. It can also be used in schools and colleges. It contains short, thought provoking scenes. Those using the film with young people are advised to view the whole film before deciding which scenes to share with students. Some of the concepts are quite difficult and more suited to older secondary students. The following synopsis is a guide to the contents of each scene.

### **Photo Albums**

A person flicks through photographs of individual people. At least six million Jewish people perished. If we add to these Gypsies, disabled people, gay people, Black people, Jehovah's Witnesses and political opponents of the Nazis the numbers rise to about ten million. If it was possible to view a photograph of every person who died during the Holocaust it would take us fifteen days.

### **Hush Little Baby**

Rwanda 1994....The screen is dark. We hear a child crying and a mother's whispered words. There are other sounds in the darkness. Neighbours are seeking out neighbours in order to kill them. We see the words of conversations on the screen as most of what we hear would have been spoken in whispers.

### **Barbara Stimler's Testimony**

The image of the flick book returns. Next we see a forest of trees. Barbara describes how the Nazis separated mothers from their children, sending some to the right and some to the left. She remembers the cries of those torn away from their loved ones. Can you imagine...

### **The Gallery**

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In the style of Tony Hart presentations we are presented with children's art. We see pictures from the children of 1940s Auschwitz and from present day Darfur.

### **Josef Perl's Testimony**

The flick book image continues. Josef remembers how those who could no longer survive the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp threw themselves against the electrified barbed wire fence. He also recalls how the Nazis left the bodies of the dead suspended on the fences to prevent other inmates taking similar action.

### **Sticks And Stones**

A large balloon is being inflated. As it grows we see and hear terms of abuse which have been hurled at others. There have been 260,000 victims of hate crime in modern Britain. We are urged to challenge hate crime and as the balloon bursts the narrator says "Don't be a bystander!"

### **Edith Birkin's Testimony**

We hear about the smoking chimneys and the transported people who did not come back.

### **Fact Or Fiction**

We hear extracts from a recording made by Richard Dimbleby which he made and released to the world after witnessing at first hand the horrors of Bergen Belsen at the time of liberation. We also hear statements made by those who claim that the Holocaust did not happen. The Holocaust is not a myth. What happened to all the victims? If the Holocaust did not take place why did they disappear and where did they go?

### **The Queen**

The National Anthem plays as we focus on a portrait of the Queen. As we look into her eyes we see images of the people who make up the population of the United Kingdom. We are urged to be proud of our ethnically diverse community.

### **Conclusion**

We refocus on the flick book of victims. The person flicking through the images reaches the last page of the last book. He drops it onto the pile of

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previous books. A spotlight shines on the pile of books and the image fades.

### **Questions for discussions with older students**

1. How does the concept of 15 days help us to understand how many individuals died because of Nazi persecution during the Holocaust?
2. Why was this scene shot in darkness? What terms are used by the killers to describe their victims? Why do you think those who plan to exterminate groups of people encourage those who carry out the killing to think of the victims in non-human terms?
3. Discuss the scene Barbara describes. Why did the Nazis separate members of families and send some to the right and some to the left?
4. Psychologists believe that when children paint or draw pictures they show us something of their own experience of life. Most children draw pictures of smiling people and place a large bright sun in the sky. What do the pictures in the gallery tell us about the lives of the children who drew the pictures?
5. Why do you think the prison camp guards left bodies hanging on the electrified fence? Discuss how these suicides could be seen as both signs of despair and methods of protest and resistance.
6. What are your reactions to the words of hate portrayed on the balloon? Have you ever heard anyone use them? What was your reaction if you have and how would you react if you heard them used today? What could young people do to help others realise that hate crime is wrong.
7. What do you think Martin Luther King meant when he said that people would remember the silence of friends more than the words of enemies?
8. Where did the people on the transports go and why did they not return? In present day Darfur people are still disappearing. What do you think the world community should do? What do you think individuals could do?

9. What evidence can or should we present to those who deny that the Holocaust took place?
10. Design a poster to encourage everyone to be proud of our ethnically diverse community and discuss possible slogans for a "Be Proud" campaign.