Vietnam through the Lens of Hollywood

Permission Slip

Dear Parent/Guardian:

From 1957’s *China Gate* to 1968’s *Green Berets* to *Platoon*, in 1986, the Vietnam war has been variously portrayed by the American film industry. As part of our unit on the Vietnam War in U.S. History, we seek to discover what Hollywood’s portrayal of the war *reveals* about us and the nation. For instance, one of the essential questions of the unit is to what extent does Vietnam reflect a cultural chasm between and among Americans? In order to fully evaluate the effect of Vietnam on American history, it is helpful to view portions of the seminal films that treat this national self-criticism.

That said, I plan to show scenes from *Platoon* (scene in which Sgt. Barnes is shot), *Apocalypse Now!* (opening scene and scene in which order is given to find Col. Kurtz). These films are rated “R” rated for scenes containing violence associated with war and adult language. I also show scenes from Vietnam-era Westerns such as *Little Big Man* and *A Bullet for the General*, as well as from the excellent Errol Morris documentary *The Fog of War*. If you do not wish to have your child watch these clips, I will provide him/her with alternate lessons. Otherwise, please indicate that at the bottom of the page, and sign your name. If you have any questions please contact me at cgorham@westfordk12.us. If you do not have any questions, simply sign this and have your child return it to me.

Thank you,

Chris Gorham

cgorham@westfordk12.us

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Yes, my child may view the film clips.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_No, my child is not allowed to view the film clips; I request alternate assignment.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_