

come and see parents guide

Come and See Parents Guide

The film "Come and See," directed by Elem Klimov and released in 1985, is a harrowing portrayal of the brutality of war as seen through the eyes of a young boy. Set during World War II in Belarus, the movie captures the devastating impact of Nazi occupation on a rural community. Due to its intense and graphic content, it is essential for parents to understand the themes and elements of this film before allowing their children to watch it. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of "Come and See," including its themes, content warnings, and suitability for various age groups.

Overview of the Film

"Come and See" is a war drama that follows the journey of a 12-year-old boy named Florya, who dreams of joining the partisans fighting against the Nazis. As he embarks on this quest, Florya witnesses the horror of war, including violence, death, and the destruction of his homeland. The film is notable for its realistic portrayal of the psychological and physical toll of conflict, making it a significant, albeit challenging, cinematic experience.

Key Themes

Understanding the themes of "Come and See" is crucial for grasping the film's impact. Some of the most prominent themes include:

1. **Loss of Innocence:** Florya's transformation from a hopeful boy to a traumatized survivor highlights the loss of innocence that often accompanies war.
2. **The Nature of Evil:** The film explores the inhumane acts committed during wartime, prompting viewers to reflect on the nature of evil and human morality.
3. **Survival and Resilience:** Despite the harrowing circumstances, the film also depicts moments of resilience, showcasing the human spirit's ability to endure in the face of adversity.
4. **The Impact of War on Civilians:** The narrative focuses on the civilian experience of war, illustrating the far-reaching effects of conflict on families and communities.

Content Warnings

Before watching "Come and See," parents should be aware of its graphic content and themes. Here are some specific elements that may be concerning:

- **Violence:** The film includes graphic depictions of violence, including shootings, torture, and the aftermath of massacres.
- **Death and Trauma:** The death of characters, both central and peripheral, is a recurring theme, often depicted in a brutal manner.
- **Psychological Distress:** The psychological toll of war is a significant aspect of the film, with scenes

showing Florya's mental breakdown and trauma.

- Disturbing Imagery: The cinematography captures haunting images of destruction, starvation, and despair, which may be upsetting for younger viewers.

Age Appropriateness

Due to its intense themes and graphic content, "Come and See" is generally not recommended for children or younger teenagers. Here are some guidelines for age appropriateness:

- Rated R: The film has received an R rating in many countries due to its violent content.
- Recommended Age: It is generally suggested for viewers aged 17 and older, although maturity levels vary among individuals.
- Parental Discretion: Parents should consider their child's ability to handle intense emotional content and discuss the film's themes beforehand.

Discussion Points for Parents

If parents choose to watch "Come and See" with their teens or older children, it can be beneficial to have discussions around the film's themes and content. Here are some potential discussion points:

1. Understanding War: Discuss the realities of war and how they differ from portrayals in video games or other media.
2. Emotional Reactions: Encourage children to express their feelings about the film and its content. How did it make them feel, and why?
3. Historical Context: Provide background information about World War II, the Nazi occupation of Belarus, and the experiences of civilians during this time.
4. Moral Questions: Engage in conversations about morality, choices, and the nature of good and evil as depicted in the film.

Viewing Alternatives

If "Come and See" is deemed too intense for younger viewers, parents might consider alternative films that address similar themes in a more age-appropriate manner. Some suggestions include:

- "The Boy in the Striped Pajamas": A poignant story about the Holocaust seen through the eyes of a child, focusing on friendship amidst tragedy.
- "Life is Beautiful": A film that balances humor and tragedy, portraying a father's love for his son during the Holocaust.
- "The Book Thief": This film explores the impact of World War II on a young girl and her family, highlighting themes of love, loss, and resilience.

Conclusion

"Come and See" is a powerful and unforgettable film that offers a raw and unflinching look at the horrors of war. Its intense themes and graphic content necessitate careful consideration by parents before allowing their children to watch it. By understanding the film's themes, discussing its content, and providing historical context, parents can help foster a deeper understanding of the complexities of human conflict. Ultimately, while "Come and See" is an essential cinematic work, it is crucial to approach it with sensitivity and awareness, ensuring that its messages resonate in a thoughtful and meaningful way.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'Come and See'?

'Come and See' explores the harrowing experiences of war through the eyes of a young boy, highlighting the loss of innocence and the brutal realities of conflict.

What age group is 'Come and See' suitable for?

'Come and See' is generally not recommended for children under 18 due to its graphic depictions of violence and mature themes. It is often classified as suitable for mature audiences.

Are there any positive messages in 'Come and See'?

While 'Come and See' is a grim portrayal of war, it also conveys messages about resilience, the importance of remembering history, and the impact of violence on humanity.

What kind of violence is depicted in 'Come and See'?

The film contains graphic scenes of war violence, including shootings, bombings, and the aftermath of atrocities, which may be distressing for viewers.

Is 'Come and See' based on a true story?

'Come and See' is inspired by real events during World War II in Belarus, but it is a fictional narrative that reflects the experiences of many during the conflict.

What should parents consider before allowing their children to watch 'Come and See'?

Parents should consider the emotional maturity of their children, their ability to handle graphic content, and the potential for nightmares or distressing thoughts after viewing.

What are some alternative films for younger audiences that address similar themes?

Films like 'The Boy in the Striped Pajamas' or 'Life is Beautiful' tackle themes of war and innocence in a way that is more suitable for younger viewers.

How does 'Come and See' differ from typical war films?

'Come and See' is notable for its realistic portrayal of the psychological impact of war on civilians, particularly children, rather than focusing solely on heroism or combat.

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