

Film review: Remember the Titans

Anti-racist religious education



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP
AND METHODIST SCHOOLS





Remember the Titans

Review by: Sarah Payne

What is this film about?

The film, set in 1970s, is about 2 schools (previously one white and one black) who are forced to integrate. It is based on a true story and is seen through the eyes of a football team which is an integrated version of the black and white teams from the old schools. A new post of head coach is created and the black coach Boone (played by the brilliant Denzel Washington) takes the lead job, leaving the white coach, Yoast, to be assistant. The boys on the teams learn from each other and manage to unify, teaching the whole community that racism is wrong.

What age group and RE topic does it link to?

The film has a PG rating, but I think years 7 and 8 would love it. It can link in well with topics about diversity and prejudice, or Martin Luther King who is mentioned in the film too.

What did you love about it?

The film challenges the roots of prejudice- the characters and families are forced to look at the way they've judged based on the colour of skin.

The boys tend to enjoy this film!

I also love Denzel's portrayal of Herman Boone- great acting and a great role model for diplomacy and grace.

If you could only show a clip, which clip would you use?

There are great scenes in there.

The scenes where the boys start to know each other are funny and poignant.

I like the scene with Lewis, a white guy with special needs, who doesn't see colour.

But the way they return from camp is amazing.

Why does this film have great potential for anti-racist RE?

The film covers the issues of judging people by the colour of their skin but teaches them about integrity of character. The pupils will be able to relate to the characters but can also be challenged by their own prejudice. The discussions afterwards can be priceless.

Are there any warnings or issues for particular age groups?

It is a long film (almost 2 hours). There is a little violence, but it is necessary to the story line. If showing to pupils under 11, I would ensure that there is sufficient support.



Two or three RE activities to set when pupils have seen the film/clip:

1. A comparison with the character of Herman Boone with Jesus' or Guru Nanak's approach to treating people.
2. A study into the legacy of Martin Luther King's teachings
3. It could be used as a means of showing the value or worth of people- does the colour of someone's skin mean someone is worth more? How can we challenge opinions?

