

## Lesson Plan for the movie *Ode to My Father*

By Tim Sebetich 2018

### **Standards:**

**TOPIC: HISTORICAL THINKING AND SKILLS Content Statement: 1.** Historians and archaeologists describe historical events and issues from the perspectives of people living at the time to avoid evaluating the past in terms of today's norms and values.

**TOPIC: CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND SKILLS Content Statement: 16.** The ability to understand individual and group perspectives is essential to analyzing historic and contemporary issues.

### **Duration:**

3-4 class periods (the film is 126 minutes)

### **Purpose:**

To give students an understanding of life and culture in Korea during the war and after the war. Amid the chaos of refugees fleeing the Korean War in December 1950, a young boy, Duk-soo, sees his fate change in the blink of an eye when he loses track of his younger sister and leaves his father behind to find her. Settling in Busan, Duk-soo devotes himself to his remaining family, working all manner of odd jobs to support them in place of his father. His dedication leads him first to the deadly coal mines of Germany, where he meets his first love, Youngja, and then to war-torn Vietnam in this generational epic about one man's personal sacrifices.

### **Goal:**

By the end of the study, students should...

have a better understanding of Korean history and culture from 1950 to present day.

have a better understanding of how the Korean War separated people and families and to understand how that affected Korea as an entire country.

Better understand Korean history as it relates to what is happening today in Korea and how they are looked at by the rest of the world, including the United States, pre-war, during the war, and post war.

**Assessment:**

Have the students complete the Ode to My father worksheet individually or in small groups. The third section of the worksheet works best with small cooperative groups and then come together to share their findings.

**Materials Needed:**

DVD or online version of the movie *Ode to My Father*

Computers with internet access

*Ode to My Father* worksheet

Lined paper for writing responses

Answer key

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Ode to My Father*** Worksheet

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

#### **Previewing Questions:**

1. What do you know about the country of Korea?
2. What do you know about the Korean War?
3. What do you know about Korean culture?

#### **Viewing Questions:**

4. At the beginning of the movie, what does the grandpa (Duk-soo) do that makes his granddaughter (Seo-yeon) scared?
5. During the first flashback scene in December 1950 in Hungnam, North Korea, what enemy force has broken through?
6. Why didn't Maksoon make it onto the ship?
7. How did Duk-soo's dad get separated from the family?
8. When was the Armistice agreement signed?
9. What is the reason the Duk-soo goes to Germany to mine coal?
10. Describe the job and conditions of a coal miner.
11. Who is Youngja?
12. Why is Duk-soo so attached to Kkotbun's Shop?
13. What is going on during the summer of 1983 in Yeouido Plaza, Seoul Korea?
14. Did Duk-soo ever find his sister? If so, where was she?
15. Did Duk-soo ever find his father? If so, where was he?

#### **Post Viewing Questions:** (small group assignment; discuss findings with entire group)

16. During the film, Duk-soo meets three people that are famous in Korean culture. They are Mr. **Chung Ju-yung**, **Kim Bong-nam**, and **Nam Jin**. Using the internet, find out who they were and how they impacted Korean culture.
17. Using the internet, find out an interesting fact about the US ship **SS Meredith Victory** in 1950.
18. Use the internet to find information about **Seoul National**, the school where the brother attended in the film.
19. Use the internet to find information about the **KBS** program that helped reunite families in 1983.

**Answer Key:**

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. Answers will vary
4. The granddaughter gets scared when the grandpa gets angry.
5. The enemy force that is breaking through are the Chinese forces.
6. Maksoon didn't make it on the US ship because she was pulled off Duk-soo as they were climbing up the net to get on board.
7. The dad got separated from the family because he went back down the net to try and find Maksoon and the ship pulled away.
8. The Armistice agreement was signed on July 27, 1953.
9. Duk-soo goes to Germany to mine coal so that he can send money back home to his family and to help pay for his brother to go to school at Seoul National.
10. The job of a coal miner is hard, dirty, dangerous, tiresome, etc....
11. Youngja is the Korean nursing student that Duk-soo likes.
12. Duk-soo is very attached to the Kkotbun's shop because the last thing his dad told him before they were separated was that he would meet him at Auntie's shop in Gukje Market, Busan. He keeps believing that his dad will show up.
13. During the summer of 1983 in Yeouido Plaza, Seoul people were trying to reunite with their families who they became separated with during the Korean War from 1950-1953.
14. Duk-soo did find his sister in the summer of 1983 when she answered a Korean TV show during the summer of 1983. She was found by a US soldier and adopted in the United States where she was living when she watched the KBS broadcast.
15. Duk-soo never found his father.
16. Information will vary but should include Hyundai, fashion designer, and singer.
17. Information will vary but should include that the SS Meredith Victory is credited with the largest humanitarian rescue operation by a single ship, evacuating more than 14,000 refugees in a single trip during the [Korean War](#). The vessel has often been described as the "Ship of Miracles" as it was designed to carry only 12 passengers with a 47-person crew.
18. Information will vary but should include that it was founded in 1946 and that Seoul National University is considered to be the most prestigious university in the country.
19. Information will vary but should include information about the Korean Broadcast System and the KBS live broadcast ***Finding Dispersed Families***. It aired daily on KBS and raised widespread recognition in Korea and around the world about the separation of families during the Cold War and how that impacted families.