

Summer 2011

Over the next week we will begin reading and studying about the 1960s in the United States. To set the mood and give an interesting visual depiction of urban America during this time period, we will watch the film *A Bronx Tale* (1993). There will be an analysis of the movie when it is over, and an extension activity for homework.

Here is the storyline from the International Movie Database (IMDB):

“Calogero Anello is a nine-year old child living in the Bronx - notorious for gangster bars, racist people and aggressive nature. Calogero witnesses a shooting in the street involving local big shot gangster, Sonny, but refuses to grass him to the police. Sonny grows fond of the child and begins to teach him how things are conducted on streets. Calogero's father is a working man who wants his child to grow up and make his money honestly, and does not want him to mix with Sonny. Despite his father's disapproval, for eight years he continues to see Sonny, and receives a 'street' education from him. Despite being a gangster, Sonny loves Calogero and teaches him that being a gangster is too risky and dangerous. However Calogero misinterprets Sonny's message, and still gets involved with racist fights with his friends. Things get worse when he falls in love with a black girl. This story of the Bronx, as a child grows up with two educations, one from school and one from the street.”

The ideas presented in this film, and its depiction of a part of America, serves as a great introduction to 1960s America. Furthermore, this film does a great job in highlighting the racial tension in 1960s America. The film has an “R” rating due to “strong language and violence.” However, viewed in a safe environment, the film can be beneficial to the learning experience. If you do not want your child to see the movie, an alternate lesson plan will be made available.

Please sign and return the bottom portion of the page letting me know you read the above letter and agree/disagree to your son/daughter viewing *A Bronx Tale*.

Thanks!

Robert Alvarado

____ I give my son/daughter permission to view the movie

____ I do not give my son/daughter permission to view the movie.

Student Name _____

Parent Guardian Signature _____ Date _____