

2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Next week we will begin studying and reading about the history and significance of Memorial Day. To gain an understanding of the sacrifices made by the troops, and to get a glimpse of what life is like for soldiers in today's wars, we will watch either the Academy Award Nominated and Sundance Film Festival winning documentary *Restrepo* or the Emmy Award winning and Sundance Film Festival winning documentary *Baghdad ER*. There will be an analysis of the movie when it is over, and an extension activity for homework.

Here is the storyline of *Restrepo* from the *Sundance Film Festival*:

“Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington's year dug in with the Second Platoon in one of Afghanistan's most strategically crucial valleys reveals extraordinary insight into the surreal combination of back breaking labor, deadly firefights, and camaraderie as the soldiers painfully push back the Taliban.”

The scenes and information of this movie do a great job of bringing the reality of America's current war in Afghanistan to the viewer. The film has an “R” rating due to “language throughout including some descriptions of violence” (MPAA) However, viewed in a safe environment the film can be very beneficial to the learning experience.

Here is the storyline of *Baghdad ER* from National Public Radio (NPR):

“A new documentary airing on HBO puts a human face on the statistics. *Baghdad ER* takes viewers inside the chaotic place where doctors and nurses try to save the lives of injured American and Iraqi soldiers and civilians as well.”

This movie takes place in the main hospital in Baghdad, and chronicles the lives of doctors and nurses who attend to soldiers. There are some fleeting scenes of surgery, but the majority of the movie depicts interviews with soldiers and their lives after being treated in the hospital. The movie does not have a rating as it is a documentary that did not have a theatrical release.

If you do not want your child to see either 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 child viewing either *Restrepo* or *Baghdad ER*.

Thanks!

Robert Alvarado

\_\_\_\_ I give my child permission to view either movie.

\_\_\_\_ I do not give my child permission to view the movie \_\_\_\_\_.

Student Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_