

BLETCHLEY CIRCLE (film clips to be used that are age appropriate)

Themes for Discussion

- societal roles
- hiding giftedness
- success
- gender bias
- sense of accomplishment and/or fulfillment
- identity

Materials needed

- DVD or Digital Copy of MOVIE (World Productions, 2012-2014)
- Equipment for showing film screen/monitor/dvd player/computer/speakers
- Paper/Journals/Writing Utensils
- Activity Descriptions/Directions
- Discussion Questions

Purpose of activity

- To promote accepting and appreciating giftedness
- To discuss internal and external expectations set on gifted females
- To explore gender roles and how they impact gifted females
- To engage critical thinking skills through questioning

Plot summary

- “During WWII, ... women working at Bletchley Park played a vital role, breaking the codes used by the German military. Nine years later, former codebreaker Susan is a housewife and mother, but she continues to recognize patterns that surround her in everyday life.” –L. Hamre, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2275990/plotsummary>

Description of activity

- Questioning helps us navigate through a film or text. For this activity, record questions in your journal that arise in your mind before, during, and after viewing the film clips.
- Use the following prompts and record your answers in your journal:
 - List at least 4 questions that are answered in the film.
 - List at least 2 questions that are answered from what I already know.
 - List at least 2 questions that can be answered by talking to others.
 - List at least 2 questions that mean I am confused.

(Activity reference: Dr.James, UWF)

Discussion questions

- Why do you think the women in the film keep their decoding work during the war a secret including the main character who kept it hid from her husband?
- What are some of the difficulties or benefits that may arise if others knew? The husband?
- Why did the women have trouble convincing others when they uncovered a crime or revealed who the criminal was?
- Do you think they would find jobs after the war based on what the skills they learned during the war? Why or why not?
- What was the world like for women during the setting portrayed in the film compared to now?
- Can you think of an example of other settings that presented challenges for a female? Current or past?
- Do you have a female role model? Does this person inspire you? If so, in what ways?
- Are there ways that you believe we can change how the role of women is often perceived? In school? Work? Politics? In families?
- How do you think the main character could fulfill her roles as code-breaker, spouse (wife), parent (mom)?
- Do you think she can successfully and happily fulfill all these roles or does she have to choose?
- How do you think her husband should react when he discovers her role during the war?
- How could her husband have reacted differently?
- What could she or we do differently to help us be successful in multiple areas?
- What is your definition of success?
- What would make you think the main character had achieved success in this film?
- What you have done in her situation?
- What are some of the challenges
- Speaking up for yourself and weighing the possible outcomes?
- For the main character, she may have lost her husband, children, place in society, respect
- What are ways she could navigate these threats?