

Hi everybody,

For the next few weeks, I am going to have you guys watch a Hollywood movie from 1963 called *The Great Escape*. It is based on real events during World War II about a group of allied prisoners of war in a German prison of war camp called Stalag Luft 3. The goal of the filmmakers was to honor the real men while also making an entertaining and financially successful film. They used the book *The Great Escape* by Paul Brickhill, one of the real POWs, and had Wally Floody, also one of the real POWs, as a technical advisor, so some aspects of the film are 100% true while others have been enhanced, especially in terms of character. (There are several composite characters in the film – meaning most individual characters in the film are based on several real people.)

I found the film broken into 18 parts on Youtube (all less than 10 minutes) and will provide you with the link to watch each day and a question to respond to. I am not going to assign all 18 parts, but I encourage you to watch all of them (I may make some parts extra credit). It is a classic film starring some of the classic film stars of the 60s and 70s, most notably Steve McQueen. You may also recognize Ducky from *NCIS* (David McCallum), the older Noah from *The Notebook* (James Garner) or even the old professor from the first set of *Jurassic Park* movies in the 90s (Richard Attenborough).

We would have been doing a version of this if school were in, and it is a fascinating real story. After we finish the movie, I will have you watch part of a documentary about the real story and place, and there will be an article to read. Ultimately, I will ask you to complete some short answer questions about the different ways these war heroes' story has been told. These are men who deserve to be remembered and respected for their bravery. I hope you find some interest in learning about this. Please ask if you have any questions at any time (cwilliam@lakes.k12.in.us).

Hope you are all doing well,

Ms. Williams

Assignment for Tuesday 3/31:

Watch Part 1 of *The Great Escape* on Youtube here: [Part 1: The Great Escape](#)

Answer the following question:

Most stories (filmed or written) begin with exposition so the audience can learn about the characters, the setting, and the conflict. *The Great Escape* begins with allied prisoners of war being moved to a new German prison camp, Stalag Luft 3. What do you (the audience) learn about the characters in this movie.

Submit your response through Skyward, share it on Google Docs or Google Classroom, or email it to me in some form.

Assignment for Wednesday 4/1:

Watch Part 2 of *The Great Escape* on Youtube here: [Part 2 - The Great Escape](#)

*If you cannot access Youtube, please send me an email so that I can get you access to the clip in another way.

This scene is based on what really happened on the POWs first day in the camp. What specifically does this tell you about the character of the men in this camp? And what do you predict will be the main conflict of this film? Also, did you find this scene interesting? Why or why not?

Submit your response through Skyward, share it on Google Docs or Google Classroom, or email it to me in some form.

Assignment for Thursday 4/2:

There is no assignment for Part 3 but you can watch it if you want: [The Great Escape Part 3](#)

If you chose not to watch Part 3 read this:

The prisoner with the baseball (Hiltz) gets caught near the wire and he and another prisoner are thrown in the cooler (solitary confinement) though they can talk to each other. A new prisoner is brought to camp. His name is Roger Bartlett, the prisoners call him Big X. He is very important to the story.

Assignment:

Watch Part 4: [The Great Escape Part 4](#). After watching Part 4, you've now seen the main conflict of this film. What is the plan that the POWs have come up with (led by Big X)? Be specific. What are your thoughts about the plan? (FYI: the plan is historically real)

Turn in your answer any way that works for you.