

IB History 1

Summer Film Project

Historians seek to explain the past by interpreting evidence. Film makers attempt to tell stories by showing a plot that usually mirrors the Aristotelian arc with a beginning, middle, and end. When film makers tell stories about the past that have ambiguous plots, however, we, the film audience must become engaged in interpreting the evidence presented in the film

Choose **one** of three films that deal with contradictory evidence and stories with ambiguous plots. Come to class on the first day of school with the answers to the questions listed below. (Please type the questions and answers on a separate page.)

List of Films to Analyze

- “Return of Martin Guerre” (director, Daniel Vigne, 1983)
<http://www.earlymodernweb.org.uk/emr/index.php/early-modernity-on-film/the-return-of-martin-guerre>
- “Picnic at Hanging Rock” (director, Peter Weir, 1975)
<http://www.castleofspirits.com/picnicathangingrock.html>
- “Rashomon” (director, Akira Kurosawa, 1950)
<http://www.criterion.com/films/307>

Answer the following questions about the film you selected:

1. Which film did you watch?
2. What is the main plot of the film?
3. What is the problem with evidence in the film? Is it the witnesses, documents, or other physical evidence?
4. What other kind of evidence do you need to make a decision about the main question shown in the film?