

GULAG: Many Days, Many Lives

General Narrative Outline

Arrest

Key point: The arbitrariness of arrests; lack of sense of security.

Key Themes:

- Process of arrest
- Interrogation/ imprisonment/ torture
- Sentencing/ execution—crimes as listed by the state
- Reasons for arrest

Ideas presented:

- Diversity of arrest experience
- Typical lack of resistance (because of a trust in the rationality of the system)
- Reasons for arrest
- Move from initial arrest through examination to sentencing
- Response of family members
- Response of arrestees
- Response of fellow prisoners

Key quote(s): (potentially with voiceovers by actors)

- Feelings of arrested or family members of arrested individuals
- Warrants for arrest
- Reasons for arrest
- Attitude towards arrest
- Family pleading to release arrested family members

Images related to:

- Buildings where arrestees were taken—Moscow
- Arrested individuals in groups or escorted by police
- *Things taken from the arrested individuals (Memorial?)*
- Family members and things left behind
- Crowds looking on during an arrest
- Things the prisoners took with them (if anything?)
- Propaganda posters aimed at vigilance of society
- Trucks for transporting prisoners

Material Objects:

- Arrest orders
- Warrants
- Execution list
- Verdict from trial (George Bien's?)
- Sentencing documents
- Art created in response to arrest: Getman paintings, Sgovio

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews re: arrest

- Propaganda film related to skewed view of arrest
 - Chart/ timeline related to specific arrest schedule
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Labor

Key point: Labor is life (they worked all the time)

Key Themes:

- Inanity of assignments
- Labor as redemptive/ punishment
- Day to day experience tough
- Labor not economically profitable

Ideas presented:

- Reasons for specific labor assignments
- Move from one assignment to another
- Response of prisoners
- Response of fellow prisoners
- Desirability of certain labor situations
- Types of labor
- Climates where labor occurred

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: labor
- Labor quotas issues for various camps
- Labor descriptions
- Resistance methods to labor

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Buildings
- Prisoners working
- Tools related to labor
- Photographs (from Perm?)

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
 - Related propaganda film (set up in contradistinction to what the workers report in documentary footage and memoirs)
 - Related documentary footage
 - Chart/ timelines explaining related events
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Deprivation/ Re-education:

Key point: Reform vs. Redemption/ Punishment vs. Reward were the continual tensions experienced in the camps.

Key Themes:

- Juxtaposition of memory with reality
- Connect to modern life (compare food servings from camps to average fast food meal today)
- Transportation from prison to prison very difficult

Ideas presented:

- Description of daily rations
- Description of sleeping conditions
- Description of daily schedule (although not overlapping with work section)
- Types of “re-education”
- Soviet propaganda/ ideal of Gulag system
- Idea of redemption in Gulag
- Idea of suffering and death in Gulag
- Theater productions and other cultural events

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: deprivation issues
- Variety of experiences of those who experienced much deprivation as opposed to those who experienced little
- Resistance to deprivation
- Acceptance of deprivation
- Soviet propaganda relating to Gulag as means of redemption
- Restorative element in soviet system
- Soviet lit related to Gulag as means of weeding out soviet society from

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Food
- Sleeping conditions
- Clothes
- Shoes

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
 - Related propaganda film
 - Related documentary footage
 - Chart/ timelines explaining related events
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Solidarity

Key point: Relationships could be caring and compassionate and help prisoners in their survival.

Key Themes:

- Relationship among ethnicities
- Relationships among different groups
- Friendships
- Marriages
- Camps fostered nationalities and national identities

Ideas presented:

- Idea of companionship among prisoners
- Response of prisoners to each other

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: other prisoners
- Companionship
- Survival skills
- Nationalities

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Prisoners in various settings
- Couples married in the gulag
- Propaganda posters encouraging ethnicities

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
- Related propaganda film
- Related documentary footage
- Chart/ timelines explaining related events

Conflict

Key point: Relationships could be competitive and even dangerous in the camps.

Key Themes:

- Relationship among ethnicities
- Relationships among different groups

Ideas presented:

- Idea of competition/ conflict among prisoners
- Response of prisoners to each other

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: other prisoners
- Companionship
- Survival skills
- Nationalities

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Prisoners in various settings
- Couples married in the gulag
- Propaganda posters encouraging ethnicities

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
- Related propaganda film
- Related documentary footage
- Chart/ timelines explaining related events

Guards

Key point: Relationships between guards and prisoners could be beneficial or exploitative.

Key Themes:

- Mismatch in power
- Exploitation/ help
- Propagandized about dangerousness of prisoners
- Precarious existence themselves

Ideas presented:

- Treatment of prisoners
- Relationship towards one another
- Male guard/ female prisoner relationships
- Career options for guards

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: work
- Feelings re: prisoners
- Feelings re: Gulag

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Guards in variety of settings
- Guards with prisoners
- Guards with other guards
- Watchtower
- Uniforms

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art
- Newspaper aimed at guards

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
- Related propaganda film
- Related documentary footage—BBC film
- Chart/ timelines explaining related events

Survival

Key point: Continual hanging presence of death—uncertainty/ arbitrariness of life.

Key Themes:

- Strategies of survival
- Cheating
- Struggling for control in an environment where you have no one
- Acts like memorization of poetry as means of retaining dignity

Ideas presented:

- Coping mechanisms
- Acts of resistance
- Art as a way of claiming human significance
- Interpersonal relationships as claiming significance

Key quote(s):

- Related to resistance
- Related to survival
- Related to human dignity and worth
- Reveal sense of worth

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Buildings
- Prisoners

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents

- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
 - Related propaganda film
 - Related documentary footage
 - Chart/ timelines explaining related events
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Fates

Key point: Precariousness of existence and end. Main focus here on full bios.

Ideas presented:

- Reasons for specific labor assignments
- Move from one assignment to another
- Response of prisoners
- Response of fellow prisoners
- Desirability of certain labor situations

Key quote(s):

- Feelings re: labor
- Labor quotas issues for various camps
- Labor descriptions
- Resistance methods to labor

Material Objects/ Images related to:

- Buildings
- Prisoners

Textual Materials:

- Official documents
- Non-official documents
- Correspondence
- Art

Other media:

- Audio clips of interviews
- Related propaganda film
- Related documentary footage
- Chart/ timelines explaining related events