

Dr. Zhivago (1965) Film Worksheet

Film timeline for historical perspective:

1903 - Death of Yuri's mother; Russia is ruled by a tsar.

1914 - Start of World War I; Pasha will serve as a soldier, Yuri as a doctor, and eventually, Lara as a volunteer nurse.

1917 - Russian Revolution under Vladimir Lenin; Russia will withdraw from World War I.

1917-1922 - Russian Civil War; Yuri, Lara, etc., spend this period in and around the fictional town of Yuriatin, east of the Ural Mountains.

1937-1938 - Great Purge under Joseph Stalin; Lara is arrested (in the novel, she later dies in a Soviet gulag, or prison camp).

1953 - "Thaw" in the Cold War following Stalin's death; this is when Yevgraf Zhivago searches for young Tonya, and remarks that Yuri Zhivago's works are no longer banned.

Vocabulary terms and names:

balalaika

Bolsheviks

civil war

comrade

counterrevolutionary

demonstration

deserters

enlist

Joseph Stalin

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Mongolia

Moscow

partisan

Petrograd (a.k.a. Leningrad or St. Petersburg)

rationing

reactionary

Red Army

revolution

socialism

tsar

typhus

Urals

Vladimir Lenin

Vladivostok

volunteer

White Army

World War I

Review and discussion questions:

1. How and why does Yuri come to live with the Gromeikos?

2. What happens at the street demonstration attended by Pasha (Pavel)?

3. How do Lara and Yuri first meet?

4. Describe the living arrangements of the Gromeikos in Moscow after Yuri returns from the First World War.

5. How and why does the family leave Moscow?

6. Who is Strelnikov, and why has he deserted his family?

7. What happens to the tsar and his family?

8. What happens to Yuri after he breaks things off with Lara in Yuriatin?

9. What becomes of Tonya and her children?

10. Where do Yuri and Lara go to live after Yuri deserts from the Red Army?

11. Why does Lara leave for the Far East with Komarovsky?

12. How does Yevgraf try to help Lara?

13. Under Soviet socialism, people were expected to give up their personal ambitions and desires for the good of the whole. Individual concerns were deemed unimportant. A genre of art and literature known as socialist realism reflected the goals and ideology of the Soviet government. As a poet focusing on romantic themes, Yuri Zhivago becomes "unliked" by the establishment. Compare and contrast Yuri, Yevgraf, and Pasha (Strelnikov) in terms of how they each exemplify the Soviet socialist ideal (or not). Do they pursue individual interests? Do they sacrifice personal interests for the good of the whole? Who is most interested in the health and happiness of the Russian people?
