

Far and Away

Film © 1992 Imagine Films Entertainment

A Hollywood vs. History Unit

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Before the film...

1. *Far and Away* is set in Ireland and the United States at the end of the 1800s. During the 1800s, Ireland was controlled by what European power? (Circle one.)
 - a. Austro-Hungarian Empire
 - b. France
 - c. Great Britain
 - d. Sweden

2. The majority of Ireland's native population, both in the 1800s and today, belong to what religious faith? (Circle one.)
 - a. Anglicanism
 - b. Catholicism
 - c. Islam
 - d. Protestantism

3. Large numbers of Irish immigrants came to the United States following what calamitous event in the 1840s? (Circle one.)
 - a. Finnegans Wake
 - b. Great Famine
 - c. Inquisition
 - d. Planting of Ulster

4. Boston is the capital city of what U.S. state? (Circle one.)
 - a. Maine
 - b. Massachusetts
 - c. New York
 - d. South Carolina

5. What monarch ruled Great Britain from 1837 until her death in 1901? (Circle one.)
 - a. Elizabeth I
 - b. Mary I
 - c. Maude
 - d. Victoria

Geography



This is a political map of modern Ireland. Base your answers to the following questions on this map and your knowledge of social studies.

1. What is the capital city of Ireland?
2. What part of the island of Ireland is currently part of the United Kingdom?
3. List three bodies of water that separate Ireland from Great Britain.
4. What large body of water borders the western edge of Ireland?

FYI...

Hollywood films are notorious for containing historical inaccuracies, improbable plots, and lots of other silliness. It is good to be aware of this whenever watching a film with a historical setting.

Far and Away is no exception to this rule. You should watch this film with a critical eye as you would with any film. Ask yourself: Is this film historically accurate? Could these events really have happened? Is the ending realistic, or is it a stereotypically happy “Hollywood” ending?

Read through the questions in this booklet before you start to watch the film. This will help you in knowing what to look for as you watch *Far and Away*. For the most part, the questions go in chronological order. However, you may want to return to certain questions and add to your answers after the film is finished.

Now, sharpen your pencils and press “play.”

Far and Away is 140 minutes in length and is rated PG-13.

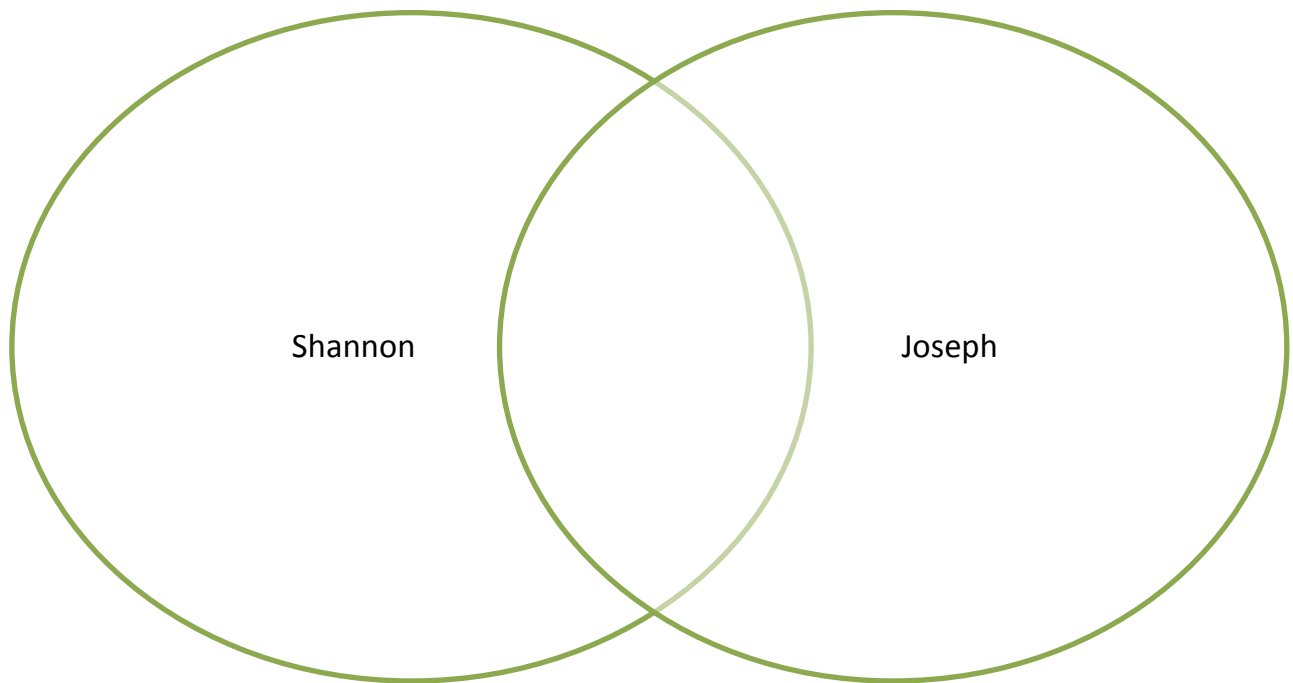
The Cast of Characters

Describe these major characters from the film.

- Joseph Donnelly
- Stephen Chase
- Shannon Christie
- Daniel Christie
- Nora Christie
- McGuire
- Molly Kay
- Kelly

Questions

1. Why is Joseph's family home burnt?
2. Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast Shannon and Joseph's socio-economic, family, and religious backgrounds.



3. Describe the tenement where Shannon and Joseph live in Boston.

4. What is Kelly’s role in Boston politics? Give two examples of his illustration of political power.
5. Who finds it easier to adjust to life in the United States—Shannon or Joseph? Why?
6. Based on the film and your knowledge of turn-of-the-last-century immigrant experiences, why were Irish and Italian immigrants competitive against one another?
7. In the film, how do Bostonians discriminate against Irish immigrants? Give at least one example.
8. Describe Joseph’s experiences working on the railroad.
9. Describe the land race in Oklahoma. Is this ending realistic? Explain your answer.

Word Search Puzzle

I	R	E	L	A	N	D	M	S	T	C	I	L	F	N	O	C	R	C	B
E	M	S	D	P	N	O	I	T	A	N	I	M	I	R	C	S	I	D	O
C	T	M	P	O	L	I	T	I	C	A	L	B	O	S	S	H	Q	M	S
A	B	U	I	T	E	P	I	H	S	M	A	E	T	S	J	P	I	D	T
R	O	A	Q	G	H	I	S	T	O	R	Y	A	M	O	H	A	L	K	O
D	X	R	C	O	R	W	G	X	H	L	L	A	N	D	L	O	R	D	N
N	I	B	V	F	N	A	C	I	L	O	H	T	A	C	I	J	G	K	B
A	N	G	L	I	C	A	N	Y	I	D	A	O	R	L	I	A	R	E	L
L	G	N	O	G	A	W	Z	T	E	N	E	M	E	N	T	M	F	N	A
T	E	N	A	N	T	F	A	R	M	I	N	G	K	H	S	I	R	I	O

Find the following terms in the word search puzzle.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Anglican | Irish |
| Boston | land race |
| boxing | landlord |
| Catholic | Oklahoma |
| claim | political boss |
| conflict | railroad |
| discrimination | steamship |
| history | tenant farming |
| immigrant | tenement |
| Ireland | wagon |

