



Set Me Free (EMPORTE MOI)
(Canada, 1999, 95 Minutes, French with English subtitles)
Director: Lea Pool
Study Guide

Synopsis

A 13-year old girl in the Montreal of the 1960's goes through many of the experiences of adolescence, attempting to become a woman in a household where she comes into conflict with parents who both love and hate one another. Her Jewish father is an unknown poet whose soul is tormented. Her young Catholic mother is fragile and overworked. She finds refuge in a love of movies, but trying to emulate a character from her favorite film leads to trouble.

Themes in the Film

Independence, Adolescence/Growing up, Teen Sexuality, Depression
Family Relations, Parental Conflict, Issues of Inter-faith marriage, Judaism,
Catholicism French New Wave Film/Jean Luc Godard

Study Questions

- Do you feel you are free to live your life as you wish, or do you have certain responsibilities that restrict you?
- List a film or two that had a big impact on you at a particular time in your life. How did you relate to the protagonist?
- Have you ever thought of running away from home? What did you imagine you would do and where would you go?

Classroom Exercise

Have the students make a list of films that are their favorites, naming only films they think others may not know about.

Discussion Questions

- Hanna uses movies as a way to escape the pain in her life. What do you turn to for consolation? How does that help you?
- Hanna's parents each have their own problems. How do the problems of her parents affect Hanna?
- Do you think Hanna discovers her true identity by the end of the film? Is she "set free"?