



Legacy

Film Study Guide

Director: Tod Lending

2002 | Documentary | 90 Minutes | USA | English | Unrated

<https://www.pbs.org/legacy/documentary/index.html>

Synopsis: Legacy tells the story of a Chicago family living in the projects and their transcending of hardships. Shot over a five-year period, this emotional feature looks, with an intimate eye, into three generations of powerful women – how they winter through the murder of a son, welfare, drug addictions, and the violence of their community and life in the projects. All of the women in the film manage to change their situations, with the help of social workers, teachers and related professionals, through great struggle and pain. Legacy curiously draws both compassion and inspiration amidst social cruelties.

Post-Screening Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about life in public housing projects?
2. Do you sympathize with those who depend on welfare? Why or why not?
3. Do you know someone with a drug problem? How does their addiction affect the lives of those around them?

4. What are some methods you can think of for a persona to get out of poverty? Drug addiction? A violent environment?
5. In your opinion, does the family depicted in Legacy represent a typical family struggling in the urban housing project?
6. In what ways could you attempt to help someone in Alaisa's position?