

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our school requires parental permission for your student to view movies that are used in our curriculum, or that are selected by the teachers, which have been rated PG-13 or R.

I believe showing your son or daughter the film *Goodbye, Lenin!* will enable them to benefit from another medium as a resource in their study of the German language, as well as contemporary German history and culture.

Summary of movie:

A dedicated young East German boy pulls off an elaborate scheme to keep his mother in good health in this comedy drama from director Wolfgang Becker. Suffering a heart attack and falling into a coma after seeing her son arrested during a protest, Alex's (Daniel Brühl) socialist mother, Christiane (Katrin Sass), remains comatose through the fall of the Berlin wall and the German Democratic Republic. Knowing that the slightest shock could prove fatal upon his mother's awakening, Alex strives to keep the fall of the GDR a secret for as long as possible. Keeping their apartment firmly rooted in the past, Alex's scheme works for a while, but it's not long before his mother is feeling better and ready to get up and around again.

Learning Objective: (Correlated to North Carolina State Standards as well as school-based curriculum)

We have been learning about life in the former East German Republic and the issues dealing with reunification. This film, *Good-bye, Lenin!*, is one of Germany's most widely-regarded films that deal with these issues. The film handles the issues of reunification in a sensitive and touching manner and enables students to better appreciate how Germans on both sides of the Wall reacted during that time period. It was released in 2003 to worldwide acclaim and earned many awards, one of which was the European version of the Oscar.

There are three areas for application of the film *Goodbye, Lenin!* in the German classroom: politico-historical, socio-economic and *Ostalgie*. The third is a phenomenon present only in the former DDR portion of Germany. This was part of the cultural divide between *Ossis* and *Wessis* in intra-German relations.

Our goals in watching this particular film are:

1. To examine the concept of *Ostalgie* from examples in the film *Goodbye, Lenin!* in terms of current *Ost-West* relations in Germany.

2. To research the *Alltagsleben* of average *DDR-Bürger* before *die Wende* (1989-90) and create empathy and a deeper understanding for the desire to flee and the need to recreate idealized memory.
3. To demonstrate that history is not a single linear story, but opposing points of view.
4. To demonstrate language ability in written and oral application/ assessments.

This movie helps students gain insight into the events leading up to the fall of the Wall, and will help students understand the issues of reunification from an East German and West German perspective. This film brings the era of the DDR alive.

This movie has been rated R in the United States due to brief scenes of nudity, which have been electronically edited out of the film by staff at Apex High School. Please be assured that I will use proper discretion when showing this film.

Thank you for taking the time to read and sign this permission form.

Sincerely,



Paul Maseman
German Teacher

Date of Viewing: Thursday, January 4th, 2018 through Tuesday, January 9th, 2018. There will be breaks in between to allow for discussion, answering questions and completing activities based on the film.

Please sign here and return or email this form to Herr Maseman by Thursday, January 4th, 2018.

Student Name _____

Yes, I give my son/daughter permission to view *Goodbye, Lenin!*

No, I do not give my son/daughter permission to view this film. I understand that an alternate learning experience will be provided for my child while the movie is being watched.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date