

KS4 English, Paranoia in Fiction: the set texts out to get you! 'An Inspector Calls' (OCR, WJEC) – lesson 1

Curriculum relevance

This lesson addresses the following descriptor from the GCSE English Literature specification (for first teaching from September 2015):

Critical Reading: *“Using understanding of writers’ social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation” National Curriculum 2013.*

Context

Frederick Forsyth is a RZL masterclass contributor who is also interviewed in these films to give the ‘context’ of the Cold War.

Main teaching points

- The clash of two massive power blocks: Democracy/Capitalism versus Dictatorship/Communism.
- This was not a ‘hot war’. It was not visible to ordinary citizens, who did not know a great deal about it.
- Key to the Cold War was the element of fear.

Activities

Watch the video clips selected from the resource for this lesson at coldwarinspector.lgfl.net and encourage students to think about the following:

- ‘An Ideological War’ - what does this term mean?
- What were the competing ideologies then? How is this different in the present day?
- Research the term ‘iron curtain’. Can students find out where it originated?
- Now view the augmented-reality artefact to show Churchill’s ‘Sinews of Peace’ speech where he coined the phrase.
- You may wish to ask students to construct similar tasks around the other augmented reality artefacts within the resource – see coldwarAR.lgfl.net for the full range.

Context writing tasks

- Show how the writer uses the character of ...to highlight the political differences held at the time.
- With close reference to one extract (perhaps about 25 lines) show how the writer explores some of the political fears he felt at the time of writing.