

Spanish 5 – Parental Permission Slip to Watch Pan's Labyrinth, Apocalypto, Cautiva and Imagining Argentina

Throughout the year Spanish 5 will be watching the following films. The films go hand in hand with the curriculum and questions/themes will be on all tests and/or essays:

1) Pan's Labyrinth: In the fascist Spain of 1944, the bookish young stepdaughter of a sadistic army officer escapes into an eerie but captivating fantasy world. In Spain, in 1944, General Franco, leader of the Spanish Fascists, has won the Civil War and it has been over for five years. A small group of desperate rebels fight on in the northern mountains of Navarra. Dreamy 10-year-old Ofelia moves to Navarra with her delicate, pregnant mother Carmen, to become acquainted with her new stepfather, Captain Vidal, a sadistic Fascist officer under orders to rid the territory of the remaining few rebels hiding in the forest.

It is **rated R** for graphic violence and some language. The purpose of watching this film is to show students how life was in Spain after the Spanish Civil War and Franco's rein.

2) Apocalypto: As the Mayan kingdom faces its decline, the rulers insist the key to prosperity is to build more temples and offer human sacrifices. Jaguar Paw, a young man captured for sacrifice, flees to avoid his fate. It is **rated R** for sequences of graphic violence and disturbing images. The purpose of watching this film is to show students the ways, customs, beliefs and traditions of the ancient indigenous populations at the time of the Spanish conquest in Mexico.

3) Imagining Argentina: Set in the historical time of the dirty war in Argentina during the 1970's. This is a film about the strength of love that keeps families together, through even the most desperate of circumstances. It speaks against the horrors and injustices of dictatorships. It reminds us of the importance of freedom of thought and speech, something that was forgotten for a long time in Argentina. The honesty and reality of the film reflect the horrors that many people had to endure. Imagination becomes an essential tool of survival. And only through imagination could they change their world into a better one. It is **rated R** for violence/torture and brief language. The purpose of watching this film is to teach students about the *Desaparecidos* and the "Dirty War" in Argentina.

4) Cautiva: Cristina's life is thrown into turmoil when she is suddenly escorted from her strict Catholic school in Buenos Aires and told that she is really Sofía Lombardi, the daughter of activists who disappeared in the '70s. Questioning everything she once thought true, Cristina embarks on a journey to find her true identity. Meeting others like herself, the young girl soon discovers the real-life horrors of Argentina's relatively recent past and the nightmare that claimed tens of thousands of lives during the country's "dirty war." This movie is Unrated; however there is some brief nudity and a little profanity in Spanish. The purpose of watching this film is to teach students about the *Desaparecidos* and the "Dirty War" in Argentina.

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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Name of student _____

Please sign and check one of the following:

____ I give permission for my student to watch the movie.

____ I do not give permission for my student to watch the movie. Please provide an alternate assignment. (Please note that by choosing this option more work will be required by your student in order to fully grasp these ideas and concepts)

Signed _____ Date _____