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THREE SOVEREIGNS FOR SARAH

1985 Vanessa Redgrave 152 Min. NR

This is a well acted but long and sometimes tedious film account based on actual testimony from the Salem witch trials. Production values are modest and without adequate inspiration it may not hold the interest of average high school students. The film can, however, work well to illustrate the level of intolerance which existed in early colonial New England and can be effective in introducing the theme of a gradual increase in tolerance in the colonies during the seventeenth century.

PART ONE

**Boston, March 1703
Court of Inquiry**

8:00

**Flashback to Salem June 1689.
Samuel Parris appointed
minister.**

14:15

Reverend Parris's first service.

18:30

**Feb. 1692 Tituba with the
Parris children.**

22:30

**Abigail recruits other girls for
Tibuta's games.**

27:20

**Girls caught by Reverend
Parris.**

28:85

**Dr. Griggs attends to the
Parris girls.**

35:30

Meeting of the local ministers.

38:35

**First interrogation of the
children**

40:45

Return to 1703.

44:00

**Flashback to 1692. Rebecca
Nurse's house.**

Segments I, II, and III

The script, which relies heavily on flashbacks, is difficult to divide. It is probably best to view the film in its entirety and work reports into the seminar discussion.

Seminar Questioning Sequence:

Who were the Puritans? What examples of intolerance can you find in the film? Why do you think Massachusetts Bay Colony was intolerant?

How important is a closed authoritarian value system to intolerance?

How were people of divergent views treated in Massachusetts Bay? Who were Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson, and Thomas Hooker? Why was Rhode Island a more tolerant colony than Mass Bay?

Why was the half-way covenant promulgated? Who were the Baptists? Why were they more tolerant than the Puritans?

How important is diversity to the development of tolerance?

Reports on the following topics can be used to introduce the Seminar Questioning Sequence.

**Congregationalists
Baptists
Presbyterians
Anglicans
Catholics
Puritans
Yale College
Mass Bay Community
Great Migration
John Winthrop
Cotton Mather
Increase Mather
Roger Williams
Anne Hutchinson
Thomas Hooker
Half-Way Covenant
Mass Body of Liberties
Harvard College**

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| <p>PART TWO</p> <p>March 1692. Hearing of Rebecca Nurse</p> <p>11:25 AntiParris faction discuss options.</p> <p>14:45 Goody Cloyse walks out of Reverend Parris's service.</p> <p>23:00 Sarah Cloyse is arrested.</p> <p>24:30 Sarah Cloyse's hearing.</p> <p>35:00 Salem jail</p> <p>38:00 Giles Cloyse is pressed to death for failing to plead.</p> <p>49:00 Governor Phipps orders all prisoners chained.</p> <p>PART THREE</p> <p>1692 Mary Esty's hearing, release, and subsequent imprisonment.</p> <p>4:00 June 22, 1692 Rebecca's trial and excommunication.</p> <p>8:45 Rebecca's execution.</p> <p>15:30 Samuel Nurse brings the body of his mother home to Salem Village.</p> | | |
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Notes