



ENEMY AT THE GATES

In 1942, the German Army pushed deep into the Soviet Union and was laying siege to the city of Stalingrad in one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. Vasily Zaytsev, a young farmer from the Urals was sent to Stalingrad to defend the Motherland and quickly makes a name for himself as a sniper.

Prior to Watching the Film Questions

Research the Battle of Stalingrad online and then answer the following questions listed below.

- 1. Where is Stalingrad located? What is the main river located by the city called and why is it important?*
- 2. Approximately how many German and Russian Soldiers were involved in the Battle of Stalingrad?*
- 3. Why were snipers so effective in the Battle of Stalingrad?*
- 4. Explain what was 'Operation Uranus' during the Battle of Stalingrad and why was it significant?*



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Answer the Following Questions as you Watch the Film

Directions: *Be sure to respond using complete sentences. Questions marked with an (**) require your opinion or research and can be completed at the end of the film.*

1. *Why does the young Vasily put snow in his mouth?*
2. *In your opinion, why do you think they were locking soldiers in the train cars?*
*** (Hint: Google: Order no. 227 Soviet Union)*
3. *Where is the "Fate of the World" being decided?*
4. *Why did the officers choose to read letters to the soldiers as they approached Stalingrad? What purpose might this serve?*
5. *As the soldiers disembark, the officer in the back of the truck with the megaphone is giving instructions, what are they?*
6. *What does Vasily need?*



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7. *What happens to the Russian Soldiers when they retreat?*
8. *What animal is in the middle of the children around the fountain? **After the film: Google 'Barmalay Fountain' and write a summary of the poem that this fountain was created for.)*
9. *Who does Visily meet at the Fountain? (Wait till after the Sniping is done!)*
10. *Why is Stalingrad so important?*
11. *What does Political Officer Danilov suggest they do to inspire the Russian Soldiers?*
12. *What division does Visily get promoted to?*



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13. What is the soldier's name that enters in while Danilov and Vasily are writing letters?

14. What does Vasily find on the department store floor?

15. Who have the Germans sent to hunt down Vasily?

16. Who does Vasily get as a new sniping partner at the news event and why will he be useful to Vasily?

17. What happens to Koulikov when he runs across the road to the building?

18. What does Major Konig do to Volodya?

19. What is Koulikov's plan to lure Major Konig to them? Does it work?



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20. *What happens to Koulikov when he makes the leap?*

21. *Why does Tania request to be re-assigned, and to what does Vasily give her?*

22. *What do we learn about Sacha?*

23. *How does Tania help Vasily when Major Konig has him cornered?*

24. *Where is Vasily ordered to wait for Major Konig?*

25. *What does Major Konig see that alarms him?*

26. *What happens to Vasily during the battle?*

27. *What does Major Konig do to Sacha?*



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28. What does Danilov tell Mrs. Fillipov?

29. What happens during the Evacuation of Stalingrad?

30. What does Danilov do for Vasily?

31. On what day do the Germans surrender to the Soviet Union at Stalingrad and in your opinion why is this significant to the Eastern Front?



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Projects:

Choose one of the four projects listed below to create.

- 1) *Write a 500 word Essay on “Enemy at the Gates” on whether or not the film offered an accurate portrayal of the Battle of Stalingrad. Be sure to include a paragraph on what was accurate about Vasily Zaytsev. (You may choose to write also about what was inaccurate in regards to the Battle of Stalingrad, or Vasily Zaystev as well.)*
- 2) *Create a Venn Diagram depicting the similarities and differences between Vasily Zaytsev in the film and Vasily Zaytsev in real life.*
- 3) *Research Vasily Zaystev and create a 6 page comic book illustrating his life and achievements with reference to the Battle of Stalingrad.*
- 4) *Create a poster on one of the following people:*
 - a. *Vasily Zaystev (Sniper)*
 - b. *Lludmila Pavlichenko (Sniper)*
 - c. *Roza Shanina (Sniper)*
 - d. *Ivan Sidorenko (Sniper)*
 - e. *Fyodor Okhlopkov (Sniper)*
 - I. *Be sure on your poster to include the following:*
 - a. *Where did they grow up?*
 - b. *How did they get involved in the Military?*
 - c. *What significant contribution did they make to the war effort?*
 - d. *What medals or awards did they receive?*

ANSWER KEY

ENEMY AT THE GATES

In 1942, the German Army pushed deep into the Soviet Union and was laying siege to the city of Stalingrad in one of the bloodiest battles of WWII. Vasily Zaytsev, a young farmer from the Urals was sent to Stalingrad to defend the Motherland and quickly makes a name for himself as a sniper.

Prior to Watching the Film Questions

Research the Battle of Stalingrad online and then answer the following questions listed below.

1. *Where is Stalingrad located? What is the main river located by the city called and why is it important?*

Answers will vary. Stalingrad is located North-West of the Caspian Sea and North-East of the Baltic Sea in Russia. The main river is called the Volga River and it is important because it provides access to the Caspian Sea where the Caucus Oil Fields are located, as well as travels all the way North-West to within 132km of Moscow.

2. *Approximately how many German and Russian Soldiers were involved in the Battle of Stalingrad?*

The Germans had an initial army of 270,000 but by the time the Soviets Counter-attacked it had grown to 1 million men. The Russians had an initial army of 170,000 men, which grew to 1.1 million men by the time of Operation Uranus.

3. *Why were snipers so effective in the Battle of Stalingrad?*

Snipers were effective in the Battle of Stalingrad because of the terrain, which was mainly destroyed buildings which provided them with coverage throughout the battle.

4. *Explain what was 'Operation Uranus' during the Battle of Stalingrad and why was it significant?*

Operation Uranus was a Counter-Attack planned by the Russians between November 19th-24th 1942 which encircled the German 6th Army and led to their surrender.

ANSWER KEY

ENEMY AT THE GATES

Answer the Following Questions as you Watch the Film

1. *Why does the young Vasily put snow in his mouth?*

Vasily puts the snow in his mouth to cover up his breath so that the wolf won't spot him.

2. *In your opinion, why do you think they were locking soldiers in the train cars?*

*** (Hint: Google: Order no. 227 Soviet Union)*

Student answers will vary. Some Russian Soldiers up to this point were fleeing from the battlefields and retreating without being given orders. Likely the soldiers were locked on the train to prevent them from escaping their duty to serve on the front lines.

3. *Where is the "Fate of the World" being decided?*

The "Fate of the World" is being decided at Stalingrad along the Volga River.

4. *Why did the officers choose to read letters to the soldiers as they approached Stalingrad? What purpose might this serve?*

Most likely to inspire the soldiers to ensure they fought bravely for their country.

5. *As the soldiers disembark, the officer in the back of the truck with the megaphone is giving instructions, what are they?*

"The one with the rifle shoots, the one without follow him. When the one with the rifle gets killed. The one who is following picks up the rifle and shoots."

6. *What does Vasily need?*

A Rifle



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7. *What happens to the Russian Soldiers when they retreat?*
They are killed by their commanding officers.
8. *What animal is in the middle of the children around the fountain? **After the film: Google 'Barmalay Fountain' and write a summary of the poem that this fountain was created for.)*
It is a crocodile. Answers will vary but the Poem is essentially about a man who asks a crocodile to eat him so he'll stop hurting people, eventually he is free after he promises to be nicer and then he changes his behavior.
9. *Who does Visily meet at the Fountain? (Wait till after the Sniping is done!)*
He meets Political Officer Danilov.
10. *Why is Stalingrad so important?*
Stalingrad is so important because it carries their leaders names, Joseph Stalin and has become a symbol of the country's strength.
11. *What does Political Officer Danilov suggest they do to inspire the Russian Soldiers?*
He suggests they begin re-publishing the Army Newspaper and tell stories of Heroes in the War to inspire the soldiers to follow other peoples examples of heroism.
12. *What division does Visily get promoted to?*
Visily gets promoted to Sniper Division.



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13. *What is the soldier's name that enters in while Danilov and Vasily are writing letters?*
Her name is Tania.

14. *What does Vasily find on the department store floor?*
He finds a Cigarette Butt which belongs to Major Konig.

15. *Who have the Germans sent to hunt down Vasily?*
They have sent Major Konig, a German Sniper Instructor.

16. *Who does Vasily get as a new sniping partner at the news event and why will he be useful to Vasily?*
Vasily gets Koulikov as a new partner, who was a former student of Major Konig. This will be useful to Vasily as Koulikov will know all of Major Konig's tricks and tactics.

17. *What happens to Koulikov when he runs across the road to the building?*
He gets shot in his new pair of pants.

18. *What does Major Konig do to Volodya?*
He forces him to put on a German uniform and to run a cable wire across the area that Koulikov and Vasily are sniping people.

19. *What is Koulikov's plan to lure Major Konig to them? Does it work?*
Koulikov's plan is to have a dummy helmet raise up and pretend to be Vasily, and for the Major to hopefully shoot the helmet and reveal his position. No it doesn't work, the Major waits patiently.



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20. *What happens to Koulikov when he makes the leap?*
He is shot in the head by Major Konig.
21. *Why does Tania request to be re-assigned, and to what does Vasily give her?*
Because she intercepts a message that her parents have been killed and Vasily gives her Koulikov's rifle.
22. *What do we learn about Sacha?*
We learn that Sacha is helping Major Konig.
23. *How does Tania help Vasily when Major Konig has him cornered?*
She uses a piece of broken glass to shine a light at the Major's scope to blind him while Vasily gets his rifle.
24. *Where is Vasily ordered to wait for Major Konig?*
He's ordered to wait for Major Konig at the Industrial Factory.
25. *What does Major Konig see that alarms him?*
He sees Vasily's scope on his rifle reflecting the sunlight.
26. *What happens to Vasily during the battle?*
He falls asleep and then is robbed by a Russian soldier.
27. *What does Major Konig do to Sacha?*
He kills him by hanging him.



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28. *What does Danilov tell Mrs. Fillipov?*

He tells her that Sacha has betrayed their country and gone to help out the Germans and that he won't be coming back.

29. *What happens during the Evacuation of Stalingrad?*

Tania is hit by shrapnel and evacuated to the other side of the Volga.

30. *What does Danilov do for Vasily?*

He sacrifices his life in order to show where Major Konig is.

31. *On what day do the Germans surrender to the Soviet Union at Stalingrad and in your opinion why is this significant to the Eastern Front?*

Answers may vary. February 3rd, 1943. Stalingrad was seen as a turning point in the Eastern Front. With the victory there the Germans will begin to be pushed back to Berlin.