

BRAD PITT
FURY
OCTOBER 17

Digital Discussion Guide

About the Film

April, 1945. As the Allies make their final push in the European Theatre, a battle-hardened army sergeant named Wardaddy (Brad Pitt) commands a Sherman tank and her five-man crew on a deadly mission behind enemy lines. Outnumbered and outgunned, and with a rookie soldier thrust into their platoon, Wardaddy and his men face overwhelming odds in their heroic attempts to strike at the heart of Nazi Germany.

Fury takes place in late-war Germany, 1945. “The war’s almost over and this dying elephant – the Nazi empire – is on its last legs,” director David Ayer explains. “It’s a different world from your usual war movie, where we celebrate victorious campaigns like the invasion of the European continent, or D-Day, or the Battle of the Bulge, these famous battles that American troops have taken part in. One of the forgotten time periods is this last gasp of the Nazi empire, with an American army that has been fighting for years and is on its last reserves of manpower. The men are exhausted. In World War II, you fought until you either won or died, or were grievously injured and got sent home. The fanatical regime is collapsing, it’s a confusing environment where anyone can be the enemy – it’s incredibly taxing on the fighting man’s soul.”

Over the course of 24 fateful hours, training will be tested as the five men of the Fury – Wardaddy, the commander; Boyd Swan, the gunner; Grady Travis, the loader; Trini Garcia, the driver; and Norman, the assistant driver – take on 300 enemy German troops in a desperate battle for survival.

Things to Consider While Watching

- At a few points after particularly difficult combat situations, the men in the crew all agree: “Best job I ever had.” Analyze this statement. Is it ironic? Sarcastic? True? All of the above? What do you think the meaning of this statement is – on the surface, and symbolically?
- Discuss the role that the tanks play in this film. On a certain level they are characters in and of themselves, particularly the tank “Fury.” In fact, at the end of the film, Wardaddy doesn’t want to leave his tank – even if it meant saving his and his men’s lives. Why do you think the tanks are personified in this way?
- How do the men form a brotherhood, or a family, among themselves? Why do you think they do this? What purpose does this brotherhood serve – for the crew as a unit, as well as for each man individually?
- There are no women as main characters in this movie, but women play some small yet unforgettable roles. Even though no women were in combat in WWII, women were deeply affected by the war – in Germany, as well as back home. What WWII stories might be lost when the female perspective isn’t represented? What could you glean from the female perspective of WWII just through the small roles that women portrayed in the film?
- Wardaddy is a good leader – and we hear this from the men in his crew. They say – and they show – that they would follow him into any battle. What makes Wardaddy a good leader? How might these leadership skills translate into civilian life? Which leadership skills are really only useful in combat?

Things to Discuss After Seeing the Film

Fury is an unforgettable story depicting “true, raw fighting,” and “men at their most vulnerable. Even for those viewers who have never experienced combat first-hand, the Scenes and characters in this film will stay with them long after they leave the theater. For those viewers who wish to process some of these feelings and reactions after viewing the film, consider the following:

- Want to learn more about tanks, tankers, and the role they’ve played in wars past and present? Check out the USA Brotherhood of Tankers at www.usabot.org
- Want to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan? Go to www.java.org for ways to get involved, take action, and contribute.
- Want to learn more about World War II history? Visit the National Archives online at www.archives.gov, or plan a visit to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans (www.nationalww2museum.org).
- Do you have your own WWII story to share? History Pin makes it possible for people from all generations, cultures, and places to share their own piece of history online. Go to www.historypin.com for more information.
- Help men and women who have served in combat and returned home to re-enter civilian life successfully. Support the Wounded Warrior Project to provide services, programs, and awareness for those returning home. Learn more at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

About Big Picture Instructional Design

As former classroom educators with extensive experience in nonprofit work, educational administration, and media literacy, BPID increases the reach and impact of feature, television, and documentary projects by creating custom-designed campaigns and writing original collateral materials that always put the film at the forefront. www.bigpictureinstructional.com