

## From Titanic to American Sniper: the biggest lies in fact-based movies

### Level 2: Intermediate – Teacher's notes

**Article summary:** The author describes inaccuracies in *The Blind Side*, *Captain Phillips*, *Titanic*, *Patch Adams*, and *American Sniper*.

**Time:** 90 minutes

**Skills:** Reading, Speaking

**Language focus:** Vocabulary: collocations

**Materials needed:** One copy of the worksheet per student

**Key:**

**Facts:** 4, 6, 7

**Inaccuracies:**

1. He was never formally adopted.
2. He petitioned a court to end his relationship with them legally.
3. False (see 4)
5. Kilts were not yet invented, and he was a member of the aristocracy.
8. They would have barely met, if they ever did.
9. He received medals, just not the number he claimed.

#### 4. Key language

- a. Students could be asked to do this exercise in small groups. Encourage them to support their answers by looking in the text.

**Key:**

- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. back, over | 5. along with |
| 2. on         | 6. out to     |
| 3. of         | 7. with       |
| 4. into       | 8. around     |

#### 1. Warmer

- a. This activity aims to introduce the topic of movies, especially those based on true events. Ask students to discuss the questions. Then, ask them to scan the article, find the names of the films, and predict what inaccuracies will be mentioned in the article.

#### 2. Key words

- a. Ask students to do the exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Key:**

1. righteous
2. depict, depicted
3. petition, petitioned
4. alleged
5. claim, claim(ed)
6. debunk, debunks/debunked
7. crewmember, crewmembers
8. aristocracy
9. activism
10. sniper
11. besmirch (Defame is a formal synonym.)
12. verdict

#### 3. Comprehension check

- a. Students have to read the text carefully to identify the facts (and therefore also the historically inaccurate statements).

- b. Students could be asked to do this exercise individually and then compare their answers in pairs.

**Key:**

1. He played along with our lies.
2. The film is based on the book (about) Nelen Moon.
3. The show made its money back twice over.
4. What do you carry around with you (in your bag)?
5. What did Bailey take issue with so fiercely?
6. She felt out of her depth like a duckling swept out to sea.

#### 5. Discussion

- a. Allow students time to note down their ideas about each statement and encourage them to say why they agree or disagree with each.

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#### 6. In your own words

- a. Ask students to reflect on the films they mentioned in the warmer. Have them choose a film and research its accuracy and the historical events the film is based on.
  
- b. Give students time to make notes and prepare to share with the class. They can then share their findings in small groups.