

Candidate name

JOANNA SMITH

Award level

Expert

Date

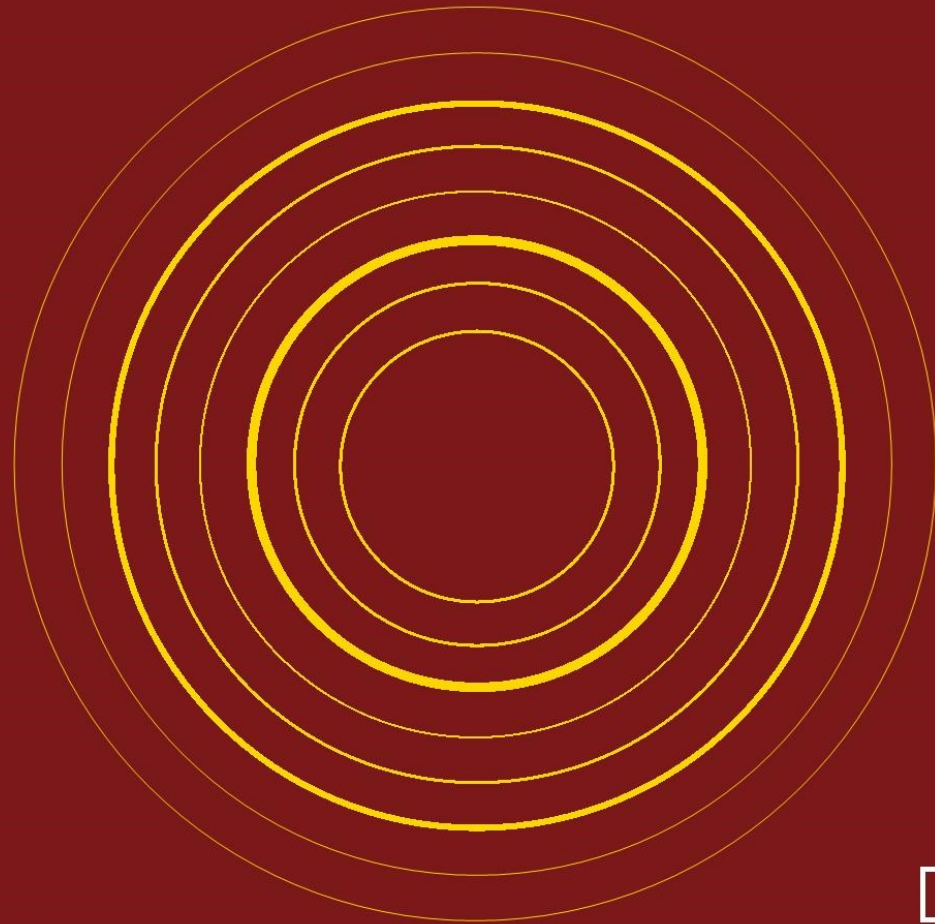
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HELLENIC
FOUNDATION FOR
CULTURE



HFC
DELEGATE
AWARDS

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	TEXT (yes/no)	SUPPORT MATERIALS (yes/no)	LEVEL (Junior, Senior, Expert)
Personal Quest	1. RESEARCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EXPERT
	2. ANALYSIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	3. COMMENTARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	4. REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Peer Contribution	5. DESCRIPTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	6. PRESENTATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	7. DISCUSSION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Involvement	8. GOAL SETTING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	9. GUIDANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	10. FEEDBACK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

PORTFOLIO CONTENTS

Summary (about 100-150 words, in English)

I am a 2nd year university student of French Language and Literature. I am also keen in all things Greek. As part of our extensive reading programme, we had the option of Antonis Samarakis *The Flaw*, (*La faille*, in French). It is a police-psychological novel, which was published in November 1965. It details the realization of the Secret Service Official that this perfect plan, that which had been foreseen by the Special Security Service in every detail and had been calculated with mathematical precision, in this Regime which divides people into those who are with it and those who are not, contains a critical, fatal flaw.

The novel touches upon the cat and mouse game between regime officials and innocent civilians, who try to serve their superiors by violating even the most basic human rights. Following the captivating narrative, I came across the French film *La faille*, that was based on the book. The film stars Ugo Tognazzi as Georgis, an innocent tourist director who is accused of being a member of the illegal resistance movement in Greece during the brutal era of military government. Two secret agents (Michel Piccoli and Mario Adorf) bring the innocent victim to Athens. During their trip, their car breaks down and they stop in a small village. This is where the story unfolds.

As part of the feedback session with other students in the French Department I suggested we watch the film and invited fellow students who had read the book to comment on the adaptation and other students to discuss the human rights violations that were implied in both the novel and the film. The response was enthusiastic and the viewing as well as the discussions that followed extended over three 60' sessions.

At the end of these sessions, we wondered how we could bring the theme of the novel to the attention of the general public especially with the UN Human Rights Day approaching on December 4th. I suggested that we organize a debate on human rights using the novel as the launching platform and linking the themes to present day issues especially at a time when the internet and the social media help shape consciousness and awareness.

Personal Quest

Supporting text (100-150 words)

The Plot

A man is seized from his afternoon drink at the Café Sport by two agents of the Regime—though what exactly he is suspected of we do not know, and neither, apparently, does he. What follows is a journey by car toward Special Branch Headquarters, and the interrogation that undoubtedly awaits him there. With their destination approaching, oppressed and oppressor come face to face with their deepest human feeling, locked in a game of psychological skill. As the plot slowly unravels, so, too, do its main players.

The Regime is the perfect mechanism for the extermination of the human psyche. Its weapons are the Security agents, and their relentlessly square logic. Its weapon, too, is the persistent distinction only between followers and enemies. The citizen who is suspected of conspiracy against the Regime must be exterminated. And since the only prosecution (or defense) witness is murdered by the agents themselves, the Plan is implemented: the citizen will be treated with a supposedly friendly human behavior to break or escape during his transfer for interrogation in order to prove his guilt and to be justifiably exterminated by the Security Agents. During the journey, however, the inhuman rationality and mathematical conception of the Regime and Security Agents will be confronted with an unexpected mistake.

The Analysis

Is a grain of humanity enough to short-circuit the relentless perfection of the regime Plan and the mechanism of extermination?

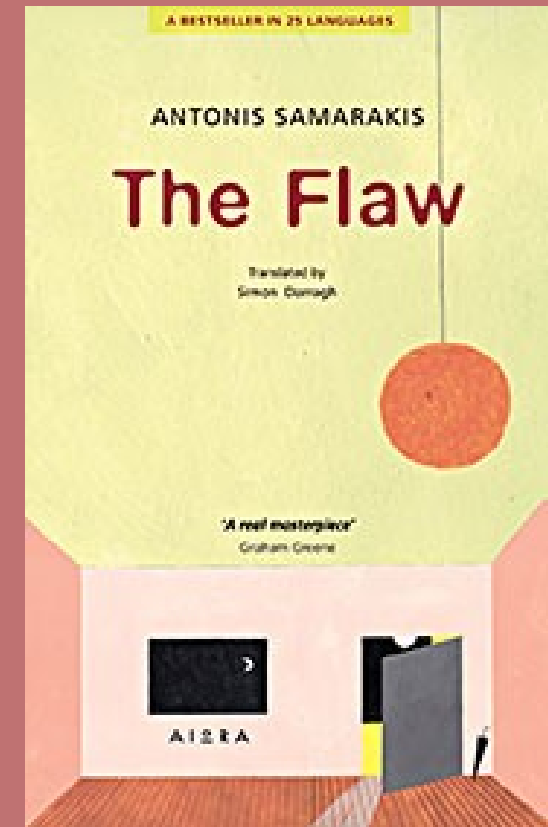
The masterpiece of Antonis Samarakis, with Kafkaesque and Orwellian origins, was translated into 33 languages, 114 foreign editions, was equally loved by critics and readers, was awarded the Prize of "12" in Greece and the Grand Prize for Police Literature in France, where a movie called *La Faille* was made. The citizen and one of the agents inadvertently manage to share unpretentiously human moments; a walk, the beach, a ball, the amusement park.

Part thriller and part political satire, *The Flaw* is as powerful today as it was when first published in 1965, foretelling the military dictatorship that would take hold of Greece only two years later. It is the best-known work of Antonis Samarakis.

UN Declaration of Human rights

Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination. Reference to these rights is implicit in the novel, yet a solid basis for discussion and debate.

Support materials



Peer Contribution

Supporting text (100-150 words)

During the feedback session I was asked to present a review of the book to my group. I felt that in addition to the book which some of the members had read, it would be suitable to view the French film by Peter Fleischman based on the novel.

The film adaptation

Here's a weird one: In a dystopian Greece, a travel agent witnesses a man avoid secret police by jumping to his death. The next day while sitting in a café, someone steps on the travel agent's foot and the next thing you know he's being arrested for reason's unknown...

The travel agent, Georgis, is grilled by the 'director' about why he was in the café and the man he was meeting, and is sent cross country with two agents, the 'investigator', and the 'manager' (Mario Adorf). These three head on out for a road trip, with Georgis protesting his innocence, and the agents trying to cover up the fact that the guy who stood on his toe has been killed by accident and cannot prove his innocence.

Although it just kind of takes place in seventies Europe, the air of distrust and paranoia amongst everyone is conveyed pretty well, and nothing is quite as it seems. The agent's car breaks down, Adorf has to go off on business. It seems that every opportunity to escape is presented to Georgis on purpose, but why? Just when you think you've got it figured out, the film takes another twist in a different direction.

It's almost a three character-play, with Adorf being the rough but loyal agent, and the investigator possibly being full of doubts (he's the guy who basically let the guy jump to his death at the start of the film). It's not exactly action packed, but does pick up as the film continues, and it's worth watching to the end. I thought so anyway.

The Human rights question

Human rights are standards that recognize and protect the dignity of all human beings. Human rights govern how individual human beings live in society and with each other, as well as their relationship with the State and the obligations that the State have towards them.

Human rights law obliges governments to do some things and prevents them from doing others. Individuals also have responsibilities: in using their human rights, they must respect the rights of others. No government, group or individual person has the right to do anything that violates another's rights: Universality and inalienability, Indivisibility, Inter-dependence and inter-relatedness, Equality and non-discrimination, Participation and inclusion, Accountability and rule of law.

This list of Human rights were given to participants who had present to watch the film regardless of whether they had read the book or not. Participants were asked to comment on the content with reference to the specific human rights based on their understanding of the film/novel. There was an extensive discussion on issues that were actually stated or simply implied with specific reference to the digital reality of the work today.

Support materials



Community Involvement

Supporting text (100-150 words)

Following the peer discussion on the novel and the film, the idea was circulated to organize a World Human Rights Day (December 10th) using the novel as a springboard of examples. This event took the form of a workshop in the schools that students of the French Department were working as Teaching Assistants. The group of students decided on the content and structure of the even as follows:

There was a short introduction about World Human Rights Day. Then, there was a short introduction of the film and the novel author. They were asked to watch the film and take notes of key words that indicated the violation of a human right.

Once the film viewing was completed, participants –students of French at the school each university student was employed at - were divided into groups of five. Each group was assigned a section of the novel plot.

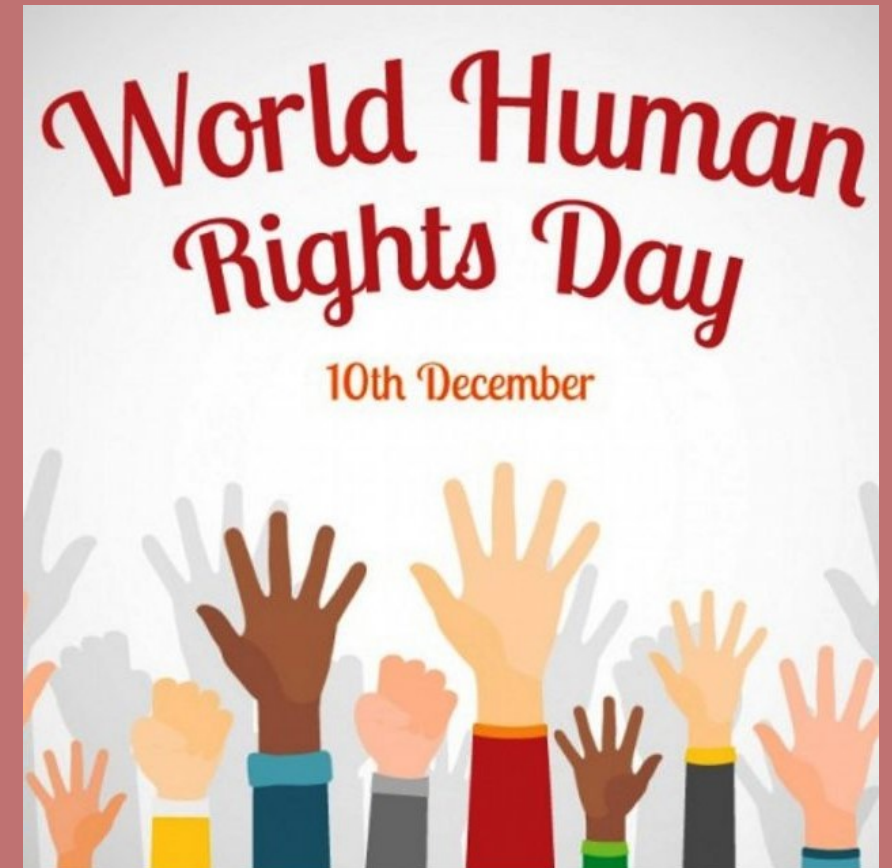
As a first activity each group was asked to create a list of key words in the film that in their opinion indicated the violation of a human right.

As a follow up each group was given a copy of the Declaration of Human Rights and was asked to prepare a poster listing the key words from the novel under the relevant human right.

Each group was then asked to select one human right that they would like to work on. Once they had done that, they were asked to write a newspaper article reporting on a section of the film that indicated a violation of that. Once completed, the newspaper articles were circulated between the groups for discussion comments.

Finally, they were put up for display for other students of the school to look at.

Support materials



Portfolio Moderation

CATEGORY	SUBCATEGORY	TEXT INCLUDED	SUPPORT INCLUDED	LEVEL RECOMMENDED	MODERATOR NAME
Personal Quest	1. RESEARCH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Expert	J. Smith
	2. ANALYSIS				
	3. COMMENTARY				
	4. REVIEW				
Peer Contribution	5. DESCRIPTION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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