

## *Literature Guides and Worksheets for Teachers ...*



### *Using Bloom's Taxonomy*

**Bruce Beresford's film**

## **PARADISE ROAD** in the context of **Encountering Conflict**

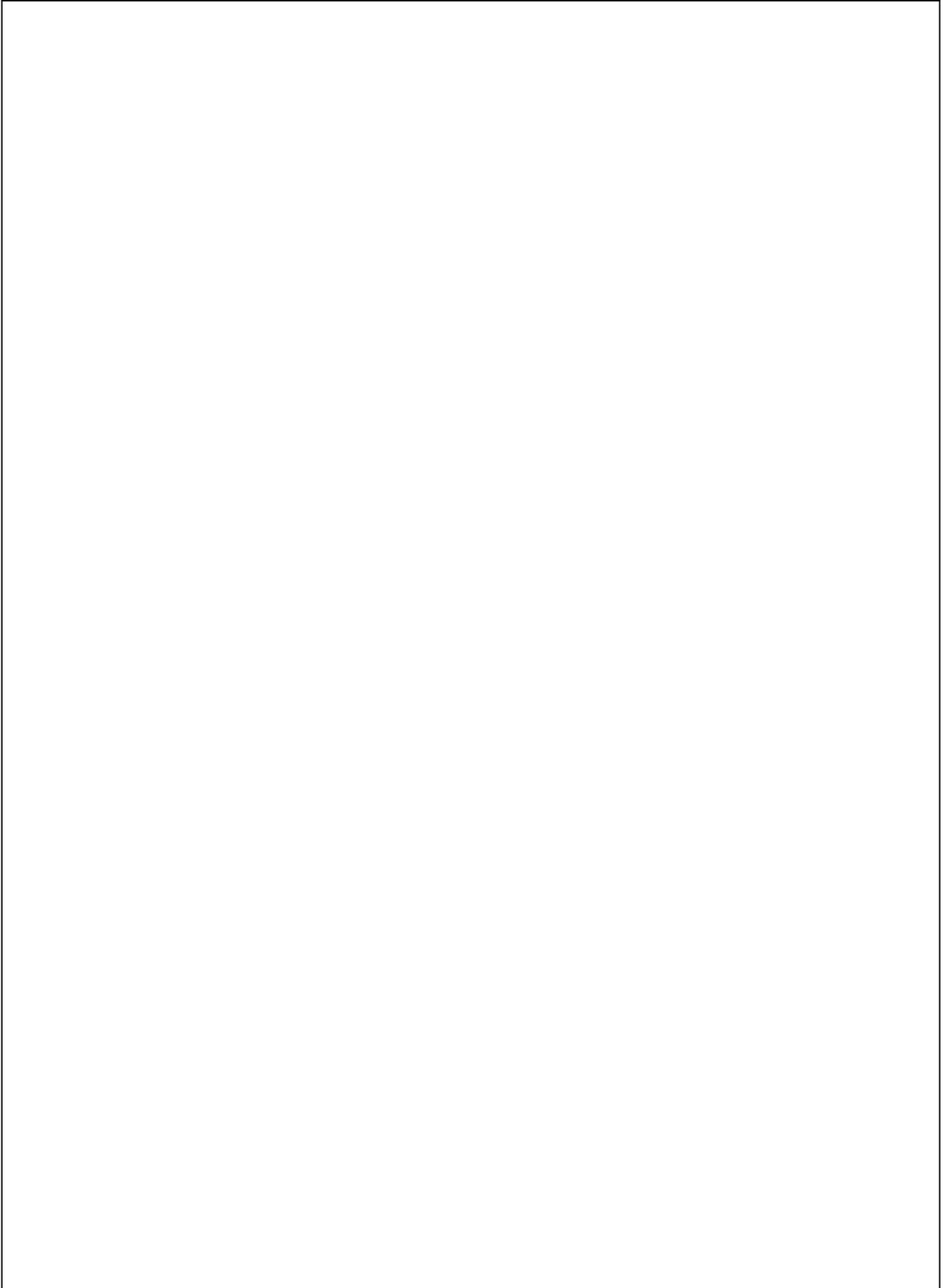
Written by Angie Barillaro, Radiant Heart Publishing ©2010





### **Worksheet 3: Application- “PARADISE ROAD”**

- 1. Create a labelled diagram showing the characters from the film and how they relate to one another.**

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to draw a character relationship diagram. The box is currently blank.



## Worksheet 5: Synthesis- CREATIVE PROJECT- “PARADISE ROAD”

### Choose TWO of the following

1. Compose a series of poems based on the film.
2. Revise a section of the film and turn it into a scene to be acted out.
3. Rewrite the ending of the film so that the outcome is different.
4. Plan and create a picture book of the film.
5. Present a talk on an aspect of the film to the class.
6. Research and report a biography of film director Bruce Beresford.
7. Write a newspaper article based on aspects of the film.
8. Research the real story the film is based on and present your findings to the class.
9. Choose the music is played in the film and write/present an analysis of the use of this music in the film.
10. Choreograph a movement inspired by one or more key scenes in the film. Present a live performance to an audience or have someone video tape it.
11. Using any art medium (painting, sculpture, inks, pencil etc.), create one or more visual representations of the film.

**Note:** for each of your projects, write 250 + words about the process you undertook.



## Worksheet 7: Writing Prompts CONFLICT – “PARADISE ROAD”

Use the boxes provided to brainstorm the prompts.

1. During times of extreme conflict, we realize the depths of our greatness.

2. Conflict both unites and tears people apart.

3. War can never be justified.

4. Even in the pits of conflict’s darkness and despair, our sense of humour can keep us human.

5. Time and time again, the human spirit soars above the tragedy and destruction of conflicts.

## Worksheet 8: A LOOK AT “PARADISE ROAD”

What happens	Comments
<p>The film opens in a glamorous Ballroom at the Raffles Hotel in 1942, Singapore. Soldiers and their wives or girls, nurses and other people are dancing and enjoying some free time. World War II has been going since 1939. People are happy and feel reasonably safe, until there is a bomb blast that shakes the building. A singer (Julie Anthony) croons “Mad about the Boy”</p>	
<p>The attack becomes worse and people are cleared out, with the women and children being sent away on a Red Cross ship in the night. The ship is bound for Australia.</p>	
<p>Whilst on board, there are planes overhead bombing the ship and the women and children clamour to get off the ship, jumping into life boars and the Pacific Ocean. Many do not make it and die as the ship burns.</p>	
<p>Many of the women drift apart, and when they reach the shores of the jungle of Sumatra, they wearily make their way under the oppressive conditions – heat, no food or water.</p>	
<p>As they encounter Japanese soldiers, the women introduce themselves as soldiers’ wives. They are taken as Prisoners of War to a Camp where they are reunited with the other women and children. They are treated brutally by the Japanese, as the women slowly awaken to their predicament.</p>	
<p>It is commonly believed that in a short time ‘by Christmas’ they will be free again, but their treatment becomes worse.</p>	
<p>Whilst trading on the black market (for medicine etc.) Wing is caught and burned alive in front of all the other women.</p>	
<p>Two women start to put together a women’s choir and risk the ire of the Japanese. They practise in secret and then have a ‘concert’. This singing lifts their spirits.</p>	
<p>When Adrienne (Glenn Close) is attacked at night, she fights back and is to be put to death, but the women cleverly stand up to the head of the camp by challenging his manhood.</p>	
<p>As the war is being lost by the Japanese, they move the women to an even more remote, desolate camp where more than half die although the soldiers have become more tolerant towards the women and children.</p>	
<p>When the war is over, the women are free and the soldiers leave. The women had spent 3 years in captivity.</p>	

## Worksheet 9: Background – “PARADISE ROAD”

Background	Comments
<p>The film is based on a true story and is cited on the Australian War Memorial Website. Norah Chambers had been a violinist and she copied the scores.</p>	<p>Check the Australian War Memorial website.</p>
<p>Many people were angered that Beresford ‘took liberties’ and did not show the massacre of over 100 women and children on the beaches of Sumatra. Other ‘facts’ were also changed.</p>	<p>This may have been an editorial choice as the killings were brutal and at the start of the film – hence anything after this may have seemed ‘anticlimactic’ and the film’s focus is more on the choir and the spirit of the surviving women.</p>
<p>The story is based on the testimonies of <b><u>Helen Coliin</u></b> and <b><u>Betty Jeffrey</u></b> written in their books ‘<i>Song of Survival</i> and <i>White Coolies</i>’.</p>	<p>Check the Australian War Memorial website, and/or research the book title.</p>
<p>When the film was released in 1997, U.S and Asian critics attacked the film as ‘racist’ against the Japanese.</p>	<p>The film is merely recreating what actually happened. It is a historical perspective. Do you think the film was racist? Those ex prisoners of war agreed that their treatment was as Beresford portrayed in “Paradise Road”.</p>
<p>In reality, the nurses were forced to provide sexual services for the Japanese officers, and when they tried to resist, their food supply was stopped until they changed their minds.</p>	<p>In “Paradise Road”, the younger women are taken to an Officers’ club where they can live in comparative luxury – as long as they provide sexual services for the men. Many women went.</p>
<p>Many of the events that happened have been changed in some ways in the film.</p>	<p>Given the time restraint of two hours, Beresford had to make significant choices and in some cases, events have been condensed or omitted. Such choices can be contentious, especially as many people from that time are still alive and remember the reality. Beresford wanted the focus of the film to be the ‘voice orchestra’.</p>

## Worksheet 10: Quote Study- “PARADISE ROAD”

Action or Quote	What this reveals about conflict and/or the women?
“Look girls, we’re just going to have to get along...” (on the overcrowded ship)	
“...could be worse – I suppose...” (as three of the women drift on the sea)	
“She’d gone to get quinine for you...”	
“God...what else could they do to us?”	
“The will to survive is very strong.”	
“I told a lie but God will forgive me...”	
“Sometimes God reaches down and pulls the wings off his butterflies.”	
“Whisky...I love whisky!”	
“Faith...You can do very little with it and nought without it.”	
“We won’t stay here – one day we shall all go home.”	
“Fancy having a flag with a poached egg on it!”	
“I just can’t bring myself to hate people. The worse they behave, the sorrier I feel for them.”	
“The war is over. Once more we can be friends.”	

## Worksheet 11: Themes- “PARADISE ROAD”

THEME	EXPLANATION
<p><b>Courage in times of Adversity</b></p> <p><b>The indomitable human Spirit.</b></p>	<p>It is in the darkest moments of suffering that people have found an inner strength to rise above the tragedy. It is the will to survive and the human spirit shines through, sometimes via religious faith and other times through personal courage or drawing on the support of others.</p> <p>This is clear in “Paradise Road” with the formation of the choir. It does not change their harsh reality but it gives their spirit a voice and for a moment they have joy and something else to look forward to.</p>
<p><b>The inhumanity and evil of war</b></p>	<p>So many killings and atrocities have been committed in the name of wars, and in “Paradise Road” we see that women and children are brutalised.</p> <p>This forces us to consider the nature of evil and conflict. Is humanity prone to evil? Why do these wars keep recurring?</p> <p>There is a sense of absurdity in the final moments of the film when it is announced. “The war is over! We can now be friends”.</p> <p>How can innocent people and children suddenly become ‘enemies’ that need to be punished and tortured?</p>
<p><b>The power of music and the arts in society</b></p>	<p>War is one of the lowest acts of humanity. It is evil.</p> <p>In contrast, music and the arts come from a higher plane of humanity. Music expresses the soul, feeds us spiritually and is a joy to be part of. It can have a transcendent effect on our lives – lifting us up, out of our mundane, pain filled lives, into a higher realm.</p> <p>It is extraordinary that the women in a prisoner of war camp were able to tap into this higher power. Music and the arts are noble and humane, contrasting with the bleak reality of conflict and war.</p> <p>In “Paradise Road” the moments where the choir performs is emotional and beautiful to behold. Beresford chose to make this the central focus of the film, leading him to re arrange many details and alter the facts in some places.</p> <p>In their singing, the women become one with each other and are united, regardless of their culture, breeding, education, appearances and individual talents.</p>

## Worksheet 12: Scene Analysis- “PARADISE ROAD”

Choose a significant scene from “Paradise Road” and in pairs, fill in the following details:

Look at...	Notes...	How does this shape the film?
Characters – how they look		
Characters – how they act		
Characters – what they say		
Setting-		
Props-		
Lighting-		
Use of color-		
Music, background-		
Special effects?		
Editing: how is the film 'sewn' together? Does it flow?		

## Worksheet 13: Film Analysis – “PARADISE ROAD”

### Types of Shots-

- Find one scene that contains the particular feature in the table.
- Write the effect of that particular choice on the film and/or viewer.

<b>Long shot</b>	<b>A shot taken from a distance.</b>
<b>Medium shot</b>	<b>A shot between a long shot and a close-up</b>
<b>Close-up</b>	<b>A shot of one face or object that fills the screen.</b>
<b>Extreme close-up</b>	<b>A shot of a small object or part of a face that fills the screen.</b>

### Camera Angles

- Find one scene that contains the particular feature in the table.
- Write the effect of that particular choice on the film and/or viewer.

<b>High angle</b>	<b>The camera looks down on subject.</b>
<b>Eye level</b>	<b>A shot that imitates human vision.</b>
<b>Low angle</b>	<b>The camera looks up at the subject</b>

## Worksheet 14: Characters and Cast – “PARADISE ROAD”

Glenn Close	Adrienne Pargiter	Marijke Mann	Mrs. Cronje
Frances McDormand	Dr. Verstak	Aden Young	Bill Seary
Pauline Collins	Daisy 'Margaret' Drummond	Paul Bishop	Dennis Leighton-Jones
Cate Blanchett	Susan Macarthy	Stephen O'Rourke	William Pargiter
Jennifer Ehle	Rosemary Leighton-Jones	Vincent Ball	Mr. Dickson
Julianna Margulies	Topsy Merritt	Nicholas Hammond	Marty Merritt
Wendy Hughes	Mrs. Dickson	Noel Ferrier	Robbie Roberts
Johanna ter Steege	Sister Wilhelminia (as Johanna Ter Steege)	Steven Grives	Westmacott
Elizabeth Spriggs	Mrs. Roberts	Robert Grubb	Colonel Downes
Pamela Rabe	Mrs. Tippler	Arthur Dignam	Mr. Pike
Clyde Kusatsu	Sergeant Tomiashi, 'The Snake'	Tanya Bird	Siobhan O'Riordan
Stan Egi	Captain Tanaka	Alwine Seinen	Millie
David Chung	The Interpreter	Kitty Clignett	Sister Anna
Sab Shimono	Colonel Hirota	Shira Van Essen	Antoinette van Praagh
Penne Hackforth-Jones	Mrs. Pike	Yoshi Adachi	Mr. Moto
Pauline Chan	Wing	Mitsu Sato	Rags
Lisa Hensley	Edna	Taka Nagano	Boris
Susie Porter	Oggi	Koji Sasaki	Lefty
Anita Hegh	Bett	Julie Anthony	Female Vocalist
Tessa Humphries	Celia Roberts	Geoffrey Ogden-Brown	Band Leader
Lia Scallon	Mrs. O'Riordan	Jason Arden	Edgar
Marta Dusseldorp	Helen van Praagh	Kristine McAlister	Matron Heffernan





## Worksheet 16: Encountering Conflict – “PARADISE ROAD”

### Shades of Meaning: Exploring words of conflict...

<b>Hatred</b>		<b>Disagreement</b>	
<b>Argument</b>		<b>Clash</b>	
<b>War</b>		<b>Fight</b>	
<b>Attack</b>		<b>Abuse</b>	
<b>Mistreat</b>		<b>Ridicule</b>	
<b>Sabotage</b>		<b>Undermine</b>	
<b>Revenge</b>		<b>Avenge</b>	
<b>Strike</b>		<b>Hit</b>	
<b>Harass</b>		<b>Bully</b>	
<b>Battle</b>		<b>Deprive</b>	
<b>Prejudice</b>		<b>Discriminate</b>	
<b>Humiliate</b>		<b>Pressure</b>	
<b>Loathe</b>		<b>Dislike</b>	
<b>Detest</b>		<b>Resent</b>	
<b>Persecute</b>		<b>Terrorise</b>	
<b>Murder</b>		<b>Manslaughter</b>	
<b>Torture</b>		<b>Punish</b>	
<b>Prosecute</b>		<b>Genocide</b>	

## Worksheet 17: Encountering Conflict – “PARADISE ROAD”

### Some creative ideas for writing about Conflict...

- In the persona of one of the women in “Paradise Road”, write a letter or keep a diary.
- **Other outcomes? Create a piece of writing with an alternative ending, assuming that one of the soldiers dared to say no to orders.**
- The choir formed by the women is a way of rising above their victimhood and clinging to their spirit and will to survive. Explore other victims of conflict, who have chosen to survive.
- **What are the essential ingredients for conflict to exist and take over a community or group of people? Create a recipe.**
- It is years later. You are the soldier that set fire to Wing’s body in the middle of the camp. How do you feel about what you did? Why did you do it? Write a diary entry.
- **You are the director of the film, “Paradise Road”- Bruce Beresford. Explain the choices you made in the film and what you wanted to achieve.**
- Why is humanity always at war? Write an essay exploring the nature of conflict between countries.
- **“The war is over. Once more we can be friends.” Discuss the absurdity and pointlessness of war.**
- Create a dialogue between two of the women from the film, as they look back on their lives and the war.
- **Choose one of the women or the Japanese men and explore how conflicted you feel about what is happening as you**
  - \*go to the Officers’ Camp for better conditions as a trade off for prostitution**
  - OR**
  - \*as you carry out your duties from higher above.**

### Other ideas...

## Worksheet 18: Film Questions - Structure– “PARADISE ROAD”

1. What does the title mean in relation to the film?

2. How are the opening credits presented? Do they add to the meaning?

3. Is the film’s opening scene effective? Explain.

4. Are there any motifs (scenes, images which are repeated? What purpose do they serve?

5. What three or four sequences are most important in the film? Why?

6. How does the film end? Why?