



Language Camps

Unterrichtsmaterial zur Vorbereitung auf "Terminal"

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Summary:

Viktor Navorski, a man from the fictitious Eastern European country Krakozhia, arrives in New York. While he is sitting on a plane a war breaks out in Krakozhia and because of that Navorski is now a man without a country that the U.S. can recognise, and is denied entrance to the U.S. However, he also cannot be deported so he is told by the Security Manager that he has to remain at the airport until his status is clear. Navorski doesn't speak English very well so nobody can talk to him and he can't talk to anybody. But he somehow adapts and sets up residence at the airport, befriending the staff, and falling in love with an airline flight attendant.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Viktor Navorski

is a Krakozhian citizen who wants to visit New York. He is a very honest and sincere man and adapts very quickly to new situations, trying to make the best out of them. Viktor is a reliable person one wishes to be friends with.

Amelia Warren

is a lonely flight attendant involved in a dead-end affair with a married man. She keeps running into Viktor every time she returns from a flight and because of being addicted to men in general she wants to take him out for dinner.

Gupta Rajan

is a cleaner at the airport who finds pleasure in watching people fall on slippery floor.

Enrique Cruz

is a food-service worker who pays with food for the information he gets from Viktor. He introduces Viktor to his friends Gupta and Joe.

Frank Dixon

is the unemotional Security Manager at JFK Airport. He is in line for a promotion and desires it so much that he takes the safety regulations very seriously.

USEFUL VOCABULARY

airport	terminal	gate	flight-attendant
immigration	immigration-agent	illegal-alien	infidelity
janitor	liaison-officer	manipulation	pager
renovation	security camera	unrequited-love	interpreter



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Main characters:

Based on a true story

"The Terminal" is inspired by the story of Merhan Nasseri, an Iranian refugee. In 1988, he landed at Charles de Gaulle Airport near Paris after being denied entry into England because his passport and United Nations refugee certificate had been stolen. French authorities would not let him leave the airport, and there he stayed, in Terminal One, a stateless person with nowhere else to go. He has since been granted permission to either enter France or return to his own country. He instead chose to continue to live at the terminal and tell his story to those who will listen.

Answer the questions

1. *What is the reason for Viktor Navorski's coming to New York?*
2. *What is Mr. Dixon responsible for?*
3. *Where does Viktor live at the airport?*
4. *How did Viktor probably earn his money in Krakozhia?*
5. *What kind of information does Enrique get from Viktor?*
6. *What is Amelia waiting for?*
7. *Why does Viktor not want to go to New York in the end?*
8. *Why can't Gupta return to his native country India?*
9. *What do you need if you want to export medicine?*
10. *What do the copies of Viktor's hand stand for?*

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Viktor Navorski takes the promise he made to his father very seriously. Would you be ready to do the same for someone you love? Why or why not?

- The U.S. security system is getting more and more restrictive as a reaction to 9/11. As a recently introduced safety measure every immigrant's finger-prints are taken at the borders. Do you consider this precaution as inevitable? Would you suggest the same procedure for Austria?

- Amelia Warren takes Viktor Navorski's statement about "living at the airport" as a figure of speech. In our fast-living society many people are always on the run, hardly finding time to relax or to be with their families. Values have changed and money has become more important than family life. Could you imagine spending one day after the other in different hotels, cities, countries...?

- Life is waiting! Look at the main characters of "The Terminal": Viktor, Amelia, Enrique, Gupta and Mr. Dixon all of them are waiting for something. What are their hopes and what are yours?

- Mr. Frank Dixon is a man with an exaggerated sense of duty. In his striving to do his job perfectly he forgets about how to deal with other human beings. Think about offices, institutions, etc. in Austria - could you find an equivalent to Mr. Dixon in one of those?



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ESSAY WRITING

Having seen the movie "The Terminal" you know how it ends. Imagine you had the possibility to change the story - what would your ending be like?

USEFUL LINKS

www.theterminal-themovie.com

www.hollywood.com

www.allmovieportal.com

www.snopes.com/travel/airline/airport.htm

www.us-immigration.com

www.immigrationagency.org

www.jfk-airport.com