

Bridge of Spies viewing sheet



Read through the following information and the questions before you start the film.

You should pause the film at intervals to check over the questions and see if you have any more answers.

Background:

1957 - The Height of the Cold War.

The United States and the Soviet Union Fear Each other's nuclear capabilities and intentions.

Both sides deploy spies and hunt for them.

1. At the start of the movie Rudolf Abel a soviet KGB spy is being followed by U.S. agents. Abel goes to a park and is painting a picture of the Brooklyn Bridge. What does Abel find under a park bench?
2. When the U.S. agents confront Rudolf Abel in his apartment why does Mr. Abel ask to clean up his paints?
3. At the start of the movie James Donovan is an insurance attorney who is asked to defend Rudolf Abel. Why is it important Rudolf be seen as getting a fair trial?
4. When James Donovan sits down to dinner with his family and tells them about the Rudolf Abel case they compare Abel to the Rosenberg's. Why does Donovan insist that Rudolf Abel is not a traitor like the Rosenberg's? Who are the Rosenberg's?
5. Rudolf Abel has three official charges against him.
 - 1) *Conspiracy to transmit United States defensive atomic secrets to the Soviet Union*
 - 2) *Conspiracy to gather secrets and ... what is the third charge?*
6. When Abel is arrested and interrogated is he beaten?
7. What does the U.S. government offer Rudolf Abel if he cooperates with them?

8. How were children in the 1950's informed in school about the atomic bomb?
9. How do people on the train respond to James Donovan when they realize he is defending Rudolf Abel?
10. How does the Jury rule on the three counts against Rudolf Abel?
11. Why does Rudolf Abel compare James Donovan to "The Standing Man"?
12. When Powers is shot down, is he able to push the self-destruct button in the plane?
13. How did the U.S. President attempt to explain the missing plane?
14. How did the Supreme Court rule in Rudolf Abel's Case?
15. What sentence does Francis Gary Powers receive from the Soviet Court?
16. Who was John Foster Dulles? Why does the Government want James Donovan to negotiate the Trade?
17. In the movie how is the Soviet treatment of Powers in prison portrayed?
18. When Mr. Donovan is riding in Mr. Vogel's car what happens?
19. Mr. Donovan returns to East Germany to negotiate with the German leader. When Mr. Donovan is asked to leave what message is given to the young aid?
20. Glienicke Bridge is the spot for the prisoner exchange of Powers and Able. Where do the East Germans release Pryor?
21. Why is it possible that Abel will be shot by the Soviets?
22. Following his return to Russia what happened to Rudolf Abel?
23. What happened to Gary Powers in 1977?
24. What future President asked Mr. Donovan to undertake further negotiations on behalf of the United States?

