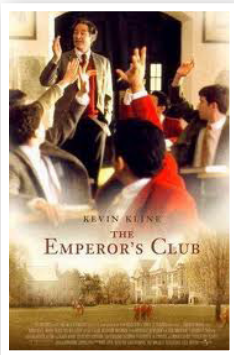




The Emperor's Club



Synopsis

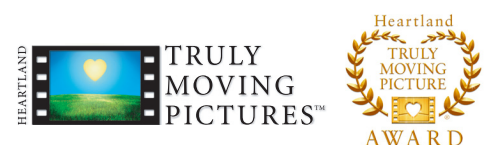
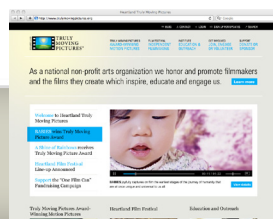
Arthur Hundert is a dedicated and inspiring Classics professor who has devoted his life to teaching at an elite boys' prep school. Mr. Hundert encourages his students to love history and learning while also building character and values. The boys in the movie are expected to be future world leaders. When a new student, Sedgewick Bell, the headstrong son of a powerful senator, joins his class, Mr. Hundert's life is inexorably altered.

Discussion Questions

- Mr. Hundert is a teacher who inspired hundreds, and probably thousands, of students through his years of teaching. What teacher inspired you in school? What about him or her was special?
- Mr. Hundert specialized in ancient Greek and Roman history because he felt as though this time period had some of the most important impact on how we live today. What is your favorite time in history to learn about? Why?
- Sedgewick Bell was a difficult student in the classroom. Why do you feel Sedgewick finally began to make an effort in his Western Civilization class? What event happened that made Sedgewick go back to his old ways of being "class clown" and why do you think he reacted in this way?
- During both competitions held in the film Mr. Hundert knew that Sedgewick was cheating. Why do you think Mr. Hundert chose not to call him out on his poor behavior in front of the entire crowd? Do you think Mr. Hundert knew Bell's son was in the bathroom when his father admitted to cheating? What impact do you believe that had on Sedgewick?
- How did Mr. Hundert make sure that Sedgewick lost the competition both times?

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- Sedgewick's father tells Mr. Hundert that it's not his job to mold his son, but that it is merely Mr. Hundert's job to teach him. What do you think a teacher's job is? Have you ever had a teacher teach you more than just the subject matter?
- Mr. Hundert felt like he had failed Sedgewick Bell. Was there anything Mr. Hundert could have done differently to make sure Sedgewick had graduated from high school an upstanding and moral member of society?
- After Mr. Hundert resigned because he didn't get the headmaster position, he ended up in the classroom teaching again. Why do you think he came out of retirement?

Activities

- Mr. Hundert asked his class, "What will your contribution be?" What do you want your contribution to the world to be? Create a list of things that you want to do in your life that will contribute to the lives of others.
- Pick up a book at your local library or book store that covers your favorite time in history. Research and discover something completely new that has existed for years but is new to you.

Get Involved

- Sometimes teachers get overlooked. They are often thought of fondly by their past students but don't always receive the thanks they deserve. Write a letter or email to a teacher that you believe changed your life. Let him or her know how much their work meant to you. Convince one other person you know to do the same thing.
- You don't have to become a teacher to make a difference in a younger person's life. Volunteer with a school corporation, Boys and Girls Club of America or another community organization as a mentor or tutor.

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