

Return Date: Unknown, a BYKids film, directed by Tymur Tsapliienko

Rationale: Tymur and his mother flee Ukraine for safety during the war against Russia, but both Tymur's older brother and father remain in the conflict-ridden country. How is Tymur expected to continue life while his family fights in a war at home? How can he focus on his studies, care for his friends and mother, or even just try to be a kid? Watch and find out.

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Tymur Tsapliienko, 17, a Ukrainian refugee, shares his view on the cost of war and the price of the world's dependence on fossil fuels. Tymur helps us to begin to understand the impact of Russia's invasion on Ukraine's exiles as well as what led to this crisis. He makes a connection between the war and Europe's dependence on Russia's fossil fuels.

His film travels a reverse journey, from Germany back through Poland to meet his father, who was injured in a Russian bombardment while reporting for a Ukrainian news channel and whom he hasn't seen in months. Along the way, he interviews other teenage refugees. Each conversation helps him understand the conflict and his own feelings toward it. Through Tymur's eyes we glimpse displays of human solidarity and even hope for a chance at a new life.

Featured Individuals

- **Tymur:** 17-year-old Ukrainian refugee
- **Vova:** Tymur's older brother, pilot, film-maker
- **Ohla:** Tymur's mother, a journalist
- **Andrii:** Tymur's father, a war journalist
- **Interviewed Teenage Ukrainian Refugees in Germany**
 - **Bohdan**
 - **Angelina**
 - **Arina**

Discussion Questions

1. How does Tymur argue that fossil fuel-dependence is partially to blame for the war in Ukraine? Later, how does Arina link climate activism with anti-Putin activism?

2. Tymur and others in the film switch between speaking in their native tongue and speaking in English. Why might this be? What is the effect of hearing Tymur speak English versus Ukrainian? What might have gone into Tymur's decision making in choosing which language to speak in each scene?
3. Bohdan, Angelina, Arina, and Tymur all reflect upon the moments that the war became so intense that they were forced to leave Ukraine. What were some of the emotions that these teens and their parents experienced through this process? How did those emotions change and develop over time?
4. Tymur, Andrii, Bohdan, Angelina, and Arina all touch upon how quickly their lives turned upside down. How did Tymur's story make you aware of the fragility of peace? What stable elements of your home country do you now realize you take for granted?

Andrii's Life Lessons: Tymur's father's wisdom is profound and important. Read and reflect upon his advice. Which of these lessons ring most true for you? Which feels most significant or moving?

- "Freedom is the most valuable thing a person has. Remember this: A person without freedom cannot be a person. A person without freedom is a slave. A person without freedom cannot be happy."
- "Most important message, I think, is to get more education. Uneducated people are very easy to manipulate, are very easy to believe in, you know, in superstitious things, in unfair things. It's easier to assure them they are better than others. This is the only way to change this world, I think."
- "I advise you not to lose your energy for hatred...Do something! People need help. People here, abroad, you know, millions of Ukrainians who live here, they need help one way or another. So just, you know, just direct your energy this way."
- "Home is where the family is... I'm going home now. Although no, not quite. Home is where you are, my dearest people in the world."