

Dead Man Walking

Film Extract

1) Introduction:

The film extract takes place in Louisiana and the film tells the story of a man called Poncelet who is execution on Death. He is of the savage murders of two young people. During his in prison he is befriended by a Catholic sister Helen Prejean. In this final scene, his plea for has been rejected. Poncelet is taken from his prison to the where he is put to death by

Words:

Death Row	nun	state penitentiary	condemned
awaiting	prison bars	savage murder	accused of st
pardon	a lawyer	impending	a stay
denied	appeal	cell	execution chamber
lethal injection	hanging		

2) Film Extract:

- Where is the scene set?
- In the prison cell what does Poncelet confess to Helen Prejean? Why do you think this confession is so important at this moment in the film?
- Who else do we see in this scene?
- Describe Poncelet's emotions. How are these conveyed to us?
- In what ways can we see that Poncelet and the sister have a close relationship?

f) What does the phrase 'dead man walking' mean? React to this.

g) How is the 'procedure' of killing someone shown?

h) What role does religion have in the scene?

i) What does the film maker want us to feel about the death penalty? Prove your point by giving evidence.

j) Are there any differences between the film and the written extract?

3) Which of these words would you use to describe the scene?

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|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| - gut wrenching | - a feelgood film | - thought-provoking | - mindless |
| - remarkable | - clichéd | - intelligent | - stereotypical |
| - moving | - original | - disturbing | - disturbing |
| - poignant | - emotional | - engaging | - brave |

Choose THREE and justify with a sentence:

4) Having seen this scene what arguments would some people use to support or criticise the death penalty:

FOR

AGAINST

