

Courses: 3rd and 4th year ESO

Skill: OPTIMISM

Film: The Prize Winner

Month: January

b!Character

Programme for the development of habits and strengths

FILM INFO

Title: The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio

Director: Jane Anderson

Year: 2005

Duration: 99 minutes

Production: USA

Genre: Biography. Drama

Music: John Frizzell

Streaming services where available:



SYNOPSIS:

This is the true story of Evelyn Ryan, the mother of two children, and an Irish Catholic living in America. Her tale is taken from the book written by her daughter Terry "Tuff" Ryan. Evelyn was married to Kelly, a man frustrated by having to cut short a potentially successful sporting career. Although not a bad person, Kelly was not too kind, and spent most of his wages on drink, which made him violent.

While facing continued economic setbacks, Evelyn becomes the true foundations of the family, especially for her enthusiasm for TV show contests in the 1950s and 1960s, in which she participates, to become a real expert, to the point that the prizes that she wins, from toasters to a trip to Switzerland, and an all-you-can-fill shopping kart keep serious problems at bay. Her infinite patience and love help her to put up with many issues, especially those of her husband, with a smile, and if nothing was wrong.

QUOTES FROM THE FILM

"Everything is possible."

"Let's go to bed. I'm tired of today. I need a new one."

"You have a wonderful mind and a kind heart."



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QUESTIONS FOR YOUR FILM GROUP

1. Robert Zemeckis, the film's producer, decided to make a film of Evelyn's story after reading the book. He says what struck him the most was Evelyn's indestructible optimism and her love of life - a spiritual quality that allowed her to overcome a life filled with difficulties. Do you share his opinion? What impressed you about Evelyn?
2. How would you describe the relationship between Evelyn and Kelly (given that she often takes care of him)? Why does this couple stay together in the midst of so many difficulties? Would things be different if this story had taken place in today's world? Why, or why not??