

Courses: 1st and 2nd year ESO

Skill: FRIENDSHIP

Film: SWING KIDS

Month: October

b!Character

Programme for the development of
habits and strengths

FILM INFO

Title: Swing Kids

Director: Thomas Carter

Year: 1993

Quality: 6

Warning: -

Duration: 122 minutes

Production: American

Genre: Drama

Music: James Horner

Streaming services where available:



SYNOPSIS:

This film views freedom as an undeniable value in human existence. It is set in Germany, in 1939. Hitler is a dictator at the head of a government that seeks to unite the mentality of all its citizens, under a murderous ideology called National Socialism – or Nazism.

A group of young boys use American music as a means of proclaiming their individuality and freedom in the face of Nazism. They call themselves the "Swing Kids", they wear unfashionable hats, they carry umbrellas and they wear their hair long.

However, what begins as an act of innocent, youthful rebellion, ends up becoming a dangerous political threat in the eyes of the established powers.

With excellent performances by Robert Sean Leonard (Dead Poets' Club) and Christian Bale (The Empire of the Sun), the film is an entertaining and dramatic celebration of individual freedom.

FILM QUOTES

"This means that you don't know who your friends are."

"We can't let them split us up."

"If you take the side of the Nazis, Thomas, then we'll be at war."

"I know who my friends are, I'm not alone."



Courses:	1st and 2nd year ESO
Skill:	FRIENDSHIP
Film:	SWING KIDS
Month:	October



QUESTIONS FOR YOUR FILM GROUP

1. How have the Swing Kids managed to form such a strong friendship? Do you believe that art, music, or dance helped them in becoming part of the group?
2. Do you believe that forming part of a group of friends can help you against indoctrination or the imposition of the majority? If you do, what are the necessary conditions?
3. What keeps them together as a group? What separates them?
4. How do they react to Nazi persecution and aggression?
5. Does friendship have to be unconditional? Would you still be friends with Thomas, even though he became a Nazi?