

# Prairie Christian Academy Media Permission Form

Class: E2A 30

Teacher: M. Robertson

Name of Movie: What Dreams May Come Rating: PG-13

Learning outcomes to be accomplished through this film:

Preparation for the interpretation of existentialist literature, which is endemic on the Diploma Exam, and defense of a Biblical Worldview.

Content review of film is attached: ✓

Section of movie to be viewed (if a clip rather than the entire film):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Potential concerns in this section:

We often are exposed to non-Biblical Theology which is masked as Christianity and this film allows us to explore and discredit such movements in a safe environment.

Teacher's Signature: M. Robertson

Principal's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Video Reviews



**What Dreams May Come**

*"For in that sleep of death  
What dreams may come  
When we have shuffled off this mortal coil  
Must give us pause."  
-Hamlet Act III, Scene I*

In recent years, Hollywood has gotten in touch with its "spiritual side." But as countless films about angels have proven, big-screen theology doesn't always mirror biblical fact. The latest off-kilter kaleidoscope of loosely connected metaphysical hypotheses appears in *What Dreams May Come* (PG-13). In addition to promoting reincarnation, this egocentric journey through heaven and hell denies the sovereignty of God in favor of imagination, karma and pop psychology.

The film stars Robin Williams and Annabella Sciorra as Chris and Annie Nielsen, soulmates who endure a string of family tragedies. Their two adolescent children die in a car wreck. Chris meets a similar fate four years later. Emotionally ravaged and wracked with guilt, Annie commits suicide, earning her an automatic ticket to hell. Dark stuff. The point of all this calamity is to speculate about what surreal eternity lies beyond death's door, and to see if Chris' love for Annie can reverse her fate. In the process, *Dreams* paints a visually attractive, yet spiritually bankrupt rendering of the afterlife.

Barnet Bain, the film's co-producer, told CCM, "I read the Bible and I'm in a committed, ongoing relationship with the divine and feel that God is present in my life. It's my primary pursuit. The movie is an expression of that." What the movie expresses is a belief that heaven and hell are nothing more than extensions of our mortal dreams and nightmares. Individuals decide where they'll spend eternity and what they'll find there. There's no judgment. And no Jesus. In fact, apart from one passing reference to God, the only uses of His name are profane . . . *in heaven* no less! Consider these theological nuggets foisted straight from the mouths of characters in the film:

- "Good people end up in hell because they can't forgive themselves."
- "We can go back and be reborn, but only if we choose to."
- "Thought is real; *physical* is the illusion."
- "There are no judges or crimes here--it's just the way things work."

Whether sincere theorizing or flights of fancy, these and other unorthodox philosophies romanticized in the movie fly in the face of biblical truth. And they're likely to confuse young viewers. A 1998 survey from the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center learned that 81 percent of Americans believe in life after death, a *25-year high*. But do they view heaven as eternity with God or as some New Age Disneyland? Teens need a biblical peek at the afterlife--a place prepared for prepared people--not the folly of *What Dreams May Come*.

MPAA RATING  
PG-13  
GENRE  
Drama, Sci-Fi/Fantasy  
CAST  
Robin Williams, Cuba Gooding Jr  
Annabella Sciorra, Max Von Sydow  
Rosalind Wiseman  
DIRECTOR  
Vincent Ward  
DISTRIBUTOR  
PolyGram Films  
REVIEWER  
Bob Smithouser

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