

**Title of Session:** The Fever of '57

**Moderator:** Andree Duggan

**Title of File:** 20071003feverof57

**Date:** October 3, 2007

Room: After School Online

**AndreeD:** So while we're waiting

**AndreeD:** You can pop over to the site and view some of the clips

**AndreeD:** <http://www.thefeverof57.com>

**BjB:** We usually start all Tapped In discussions with brief introductions. I know Andree has a LOT to share with us today

**AndreeD:** Is that my cue?

**BjB** smiles...your cue to introduce yourself if you like!

**AndreeD:** No please, do the honors

**BjB:** I teach communication in Pennsylvania

**MichaelH** is a social studies teacher in southwestern Indiana, and host of the TAPPED IN Social Studies forum

**AndreeD:** I live in CT, and I'm involved in developing connections between TV project, the web and classrooms.

**BjB:** Michael has hosted several PBS discussions, Andree

**DavidW:** I'm one of the HelpDesk volunteers and I lead the math education and technology discussion in TI. I'm in New Jersey

**AndreeD:** Yes, we made that connection. Pretty neat!

**JeffC** waves. I'm in Oregon, on Helpdesk here

**AndreeD:** So I guess we can get started

**AndreeD:** I wanted to start by having you watch one or two clips from the Film

**JeffC:** btw... I was born 10/10/57.

**AndreeD:** Let me tell you a bit about it

**AndreeD:** David Hoffman, the filmmaker and I worked together

**AndreeD:** years ago in Maine

**AndreeD:** He's one of the top producers for PBS, Nova

**AndreeD:** American Experience, Turner

**AndreeD:** He's brilliant really

**DavidW:** cool

**AndreeD:** Anyhow -- he's also very funny

**AndreeD:** So he called me to ask if I'd help him get this great new project into the schools

**AndreeD:** And of course I jumped at the opportunity

**AndreeD:** Does anyone here recall Sputnik launch?

**BjB** raises her (old) hand

**DavidW** was born in 1959

**MichaelH** was two years old

**AndreeD:** I also was 2 years old

**JeffC:** was born a few days after it.

**AndreeD:** OK -- so that's why this project is so important

**JeffC:** I was called the sputnik baby.

**BjB** : I was a product of the New Science in Education movement

**AndreeD:** It helps us as a society remember a really important moment in history

**AndreeD:** So with this website

**AndreeD:** what we did was create a series of clips from the film that David selected for classrooms

**AndreeD:** for free

**AndreeD:** The footage rights for the film were \$250K alone!

**JeffC:** eek!

**JeffC:** so much for Fair Use!

**AndreeD:** He also has a lot of never before seen footage, recently declassified footage

**AndreeD:** and home movies from the Khrushchev family

**DavidW .** o O ( lot of shoe-banging? )

**AndreeD:** What's shoe-banging

**JeffC:** Khrushchev banged his shoe at the U.N>

**AndreeD:** OH!

**DavidW** smiles

**AndreeD:** This first clip I wanted to show you is about Laika

**AndreeD:** the space dog

**JeffC:** David and I take any opportunity to inject humor into proceedings around here.

**AndreeD:** I'm glad

**JeffC .** o O ( DOOOOOGGGGGSSS IN SPAAAAAACCCEEEEE!!! )

**DavidW** will try to interject more relevant humor, next time

**AndreeD:** So as you'll see, David is about building emotion in his films and that's why they're not boring

**AndreeD:** WOOF

**MichaelH:** Andree, if I can get a little serious at this point... what grade level is the site geared to? :)

**AndreeD:** So go here

**AndreeD:** <http://www.thefeverof57.com>

**JeffC** hopes they're not in B&W... cause that equals boring for kids today.

**AndreeD:** Grades 8 - college

**AndreeD:** We beta tested the film with kids

**AndreeD:** and we all know the 50's was B and W

**MichaelH:** I looked at this the other night... really a neat site

**AndreeD:** So David works very hard to make that disappear with great sound

**AndreeD:** great music, dramatic pace and story

**AndreeD:** So let's watch the clip on that homepage and then talk

**MichaelH:** I've never seen the Country Western singers sing about Laika

**BjB** watches

**AndreeD:** Well at any rate. Under Cool Video tab on the site

**MichaelH:** Andree, wasn't there some "fibbing" by the Russians about how Laika met her fate?

**AndreeD:** there are lots of other very nice clips from the film

**AndreeD:** Yes, the entire story is told in the film -- and there are different versions

**AndreeD:** of how she died. Some say she died on take off

**AndreeD:** Others that she lingered in space and ran out of Oxygen

**MichaelH:** I didn't know about the dying at takeoff... I thought I'd read where there was a cabin pressure failure and she did die prematurely

**AndreeD:** We developed an Exploration around Laika

**AndreeD:** If you click on the Teachers tab

**AndreeD:** Exploration 3 -- Was it right to send Laika the dog on a one way trip into space? Disciplines: Social Studies, History, Science, Language Arts.

**AndreeD:** Any questions so far?

**AndreeD:** Comments? Humor?

**BjB** : nope...no questions.

**BjB** : I like that the lessons are linked to the video clips

**DavidW** knows Jeff is hoping to see more cigarette commercials

**AndreeD**: Funny

**JeffC**: Gotta love the announcer commenting on the launching as "Russian propaganda."

**AndreeD**: But we tried hard to link the Explorations to the clips and to the entire film.

**AndreeD**: The film explores propaganda from both sides

**JeffC**: so where would the students go from there... that's good to hear.

**AndreeD**: From where?

**JeffC**: well... what would you do with it in the class?

**AndreeD**: OH

**AndreeD**: You can download the entire Exploration

**AndreeD**: and it details ideas for class

**AndreeD**: Each Exploration has a Teacher's Guide and Student Handout

**AndreeD**: and is supported by the Homework Helper

**BjB** : the student tab also has lots of supporting information

**JeffC**: download the 6 lessons, etc.

**AndreeD**: Yes

**AndreeD**: We tried to provide enough variation for various disciplines

**BjB** : nice homework helper

**AndreeD**: We tried to mix it up

**AndreeD**: I also asked David to have himself interviewed for the kids

**AndreeD**: So under Cool Videos there are several clips of David talking to the camera

about his insights

**BjB** saw David on CBS Sunday Morning

**AndreeD**: He's pretty entertaining

**MichaelH**: Rats... I was on the road Sunday. We usually watch Sunday Morning every week

**AndreeD**: Well, you can listen to many of the clips that were on CBS Sunday morning right here!

**MichaelH**: great!

**AndreeD**: On that insights page

**AndreeD**: <http://www.thefeverof57.com/insights.html>

**BjB** looks at David's Film Parallels to Today

**AndreeD**: Would you like to listen to one now?

**MichaelH** would

**AndreeD**: Yes, the parallels to today -- a HUGE theme for classroom connections

**AndreeD**: The Rocket Boys story will also be interesting to young people

**JeffC**: if they're into rockets... or Elton John.

**DavidW** smiles

**AndreeD**: There was an outpouring of attention from HS kids to our Vanguard failure, to American being "behind"

**JeffC**: kids today need a different style of input quite a bit...

**MichaelH**: Homer Hickam was on the NBC Evening News tonight... about how seeing Sputnik got him interested

**BjB**: 4H still has Rocket clubs...might be a good audience for this film

**AndreeD**: My son who is 17

**AndreeD**: never watches docs

**AndreeD:** And he was glued to his seat for the entire thing

**DavidW:** there's a valuable endorsement

**AndreeD:** Well, I'm serious

**DavidW:** yes

**BjB :** what were his comments, Andree?

**AndreeD:** When I saw the film I knew kids would connect

**AndreeD:** And it would provide an opportunity

**AndreeD:** for teachers to teach about the Cold War,

**AndreeD:** the start of the space race

**AndreeD:** how NASA was born

**AndreeD:** and really what a surprisingly terrific leader Eisenhower was in hindsight

**BjB :** and the PASSION that took hold of the country

**AndreeD:** He kept the military out of space

**BjB .** o O ( passion for education )

**AndreeD:** It's a curious and quirky time

**AndreeD:** Check out this clip

**AndreeD:** [http://www.thefeverof57.com/cool\\_videos.html](http://www.thefeverof57.com/cool_videos.html)

**AndreeD:** The woman with the satellite in her hair

**BjB** smiles...cool

**AndreeD:** These are rare glimpses of Americana mixed in with the larger story of the arms race

**AndreeD:** and how close we came to WWII

**AndreeD:** Duck and cover drills

**BjB** nods.

**BjB** : Have we really come much further?

**AndreeD**: 57 Mega ton test in Soviet Russia

**AndreeD**: And perhaps the most important lesson is one of restraint

**AndreeD**: one of talking to the enemy

**AndreeD**: When things were really getting out of hand

**AndreeD**: with one ABOVE ground nuclear test every three days

**BjB** : great point, Andree

**AndreeD**: Eisenhower and Khrushchev got together

**AndreeD**: This is a story that has not been told

**AndreeD**: It comes from Khrushchev's son

**AndreeD**: He said Eisenhower invited Khrushchev to Camp David

**AndreeD**: and they both lamented about how their militaries were pushing them to build

**AndreeD**: bigger and bigger bombs

**AndreeD**: Khrushchev was about the best defense is a good offense

**AndreeD**: And it was largely a war of words

**AndreeD**: that neither man really wanted to see go farther

**AndreeD**: So Eisenhower says to Khrushchev, what if you and I have a secret pact

**AndreeD**: I won't push the button if you won't

**AndreeD**: They bonded and from that point forward, tensions began to ease a bit

**MichaelH**: wow, I had never heard THAT story

**AndreeD**: NASA became a Civilian Space Agency

**DavidW**: I thought there was an offer from Eisenhower allowing for Russians to fly-over the US for arms verification

**AndreeD:** Eisenhower launched a secret satellite with his voice -- the first voice

**AndreeD:** This was a backroom story that you hear in the film from Sergei Khrushchev

**AndreeD:** and the voice wished the World a peaceful Christmas

**MichaelH:** was that the OPEN SKIES thing, David?

**DavidW:** I think so, Michael

**AndreeD:** I met Sergei Khrushchev the other night. He's a very nice man

**AndreeD:** He was saying we were both the evil empire to the other

**AndreeD:** And so today, with that word evil heard so much

**AndreeD:** It's important to learn about this story

**AndreeD:** That diplomacy is so incredibly important

**AndreeD:** Has this been helpful?

**MichaelH:** very much so.

**DavidW:** It's a superb topic, Andree. We should try to schedule another time when we might draw a bigger audience for you

**BjB:** I think it's been fascinating, Andree. It's so important to make history relate to the contemporary world

**AndreeD:** I know it's really hard to get kids today to think about the past

**BjB:** Andree wanted to get this in before tomorrow's anniversary date

**AndreeD:** Perhaps it's difficult to get anyone to think about the past but us buffs

**MichaelH:** Andree... a quick promotional question...

**AndreeD:** Sure

**DavidW:** Well, there is Ken Burns

**AndreeD:** Dah

**DavidW** smiles

**MichaelH:** do you have a promotional e-mail or something similar?

**AndreeD:** Yes, he's the master

**MichaelH:** I moderate three listservs for Social Studies teachers, and also am teaching a social studies methods class online right now

**AndreeD:** We were scrambling to get the site done and so not really yet

**AndreeD:** I can put something together for you

**AndreeD:** and you can edit it

**MichaelH:** I could forward information whenever you have it ready. You can send it to me at mhutch@charter.net

**AndreeD:** Great

**AndreeD:** Also, if you guys could take my little survey that would help

**MichaelH:** I sent the announcement BJ made about the session... but if there's more you want to mention about the site, go ahead and add it

**AndreeD:** We're actually looking for funding so we can lower the price for educators

**MichaelH:** Would PBS be interested in underwriting?

**AndreeD:** We've been getting tons of traffic across the site from David's publicity tour

**AndreeD:** But I would like to see this get to anyone who wants it

**AndreeD:** I had the filmmaker split the film into three sections for classrooms

**AndreeD:** And we do have the free clips on the site, but they only go so far

**AndreeD:** So that's my goal

**AndreeD:** But certainly we'll have the schools that want the film for their archive

**AndreeD:** similar to a Ken Burns film

**BjB:** where is your survey, Andree?

**AndreeD:** Off the homepage

**AndreeD:** It's four quick questions

**MichaelH:** BJ, how about at another time we have Andree come back (when her schedule permits), and do a combined session with you and me in a Social Studies forum?

**DavidW . o O** ( third line down below "Watch Clip" )

**AndreeD:** That would be fun

**DavidW** thinks Michael's idea is excellent

**AndreeD:** We could talk generally about use of TV and web in class

**MichaelH:** My sessions are on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, Andree... same time as your session tonight

**MichaelH . o O** ( maybe we could do it before the holidays, or early next year? )

**AndreeD:** Sure

**BjB** smiles happily

**MichaelH:** Will the film be featured at all at the NCSS Conference in San Diego?

**AndreeD:** Also. We'll take the conversation off board

**AndreeD:** We're looking to the spring National conference

**AndreeD:** to have David and perhaps Paul Dickson and maybe even Sergei for a panel

**MichaelH:** NCSS is at the end of November...

**MichaelH:** that would be cool... BJ and I could definitely handle logistics and publicity for that

**AndreeD:** I was told the national conference is in March

**AndreeD:** no?

**MichaelH:** there are some regional conferences in the late winter and spring

**MichaelH:** the "Great Lakes" conference (where I am) is in late February

**MichaelH:** National conference is really late November in San Diego

**AndreeD:** Oh -- regional then

**MichaelH:** that would definitely be a nice place to be between Thanksgiving and Christmas!

**AndreeD:** I think we're too late for November

**MichaelH:** I could invite you to present at the Great Lakes Conference (in Indianapolis)

**MichaelH:** six states around the midwest...

**AndreeD:** Sounds great. Let's discuss. Can I get everyone's email?

**MichaelH:** We'll need to get you (and David or whoever) signed up as a concurrent session by Nov. 1... does that cut it too close?

**AndreeD:** And then I have to run -- as I'm going into another call after this. Thank you so much. Survey is on a tab on the [www.thefeverof57.com](http://www.thefeverof57.com) homepage

**AndreeD:** No, I can do that

**MichaelH:** thanks for joining us, Andree... a great session

**DavidW:** Thanks, Andree

**BjB:** Thanks, Andree. Wonderful discussion

**BjB** waves goodnight

**MichaelH** waves