

Memory, Educators and Pedagogy: Viewing Cry Freedom - Unearthing Biko's Philosophy in the Classroom

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ABSTRACT The article focuses on the role of pedagogy and memory in a South African classroom. It was an investigation that was initiated by an educator who utilised his own autobiographical memory in educating his class. To fortify his memory, the teacher made use of the Attenborough's film, *Cry Freedom*, a film that traces life and times of Stephen Biko, who is portrayed as a fearless fighter for the oppressed peoples' political emancipation. The educator illustrated this memory to the secondary school learners to kindle debate and critical pedagogy. This was a qualitative study involving 64 learner participants. Drawing upon the struggle memory, the learners explored themes that question cultural hegemony and Biko's philosophy. They explored themes such as identity, language and culture. In understanding and embracing the post-apartheid South Africa, the learners critically looked back at the history of the oppressed, personified by the life of Biko.