

# Film review: Glory

Anti-racist religious education



RE TODAY AND NATRE WORKING WITH THE FREE CHURCHES GROUP  
AND METHODIST SCHOOLS



# Glory

Review by: Marie Timberlake

## What is this film about?

Glory is a 1989 American war film directed by Edward Zwick about the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the Union Army's second African-American regiment in the American Civil War. It stars Matthew Broderick as Colonel Robert Gould Shaw, the regiment's commanding officer, and Denzel Washington, Cary Elwes, and Morgan Freeman as fictional members of the 54th. The screenplay by Kevin Jarre was based on the books Lay This Laurel (1973) by Lincoln Kirstein and One Gallant Rush (1965) by Peter Burchard, and the personal letters of Shaw. The film depicts the soldiers of the 54th from the formation of their regiment to their heroic actions at the Second Battle of Fort Wagner. (Wikipedia)

## What age group and RE topic does it link to?

Year 8-9 / GCSE (Age rating: 15)  
(permission required for under 15s)

## What did you love about it?

Based on Shaw's letters (historical sources)  
Shows

## If you could only show a clip, which clip would you use?

Final scene – fighting together and Shaw being buried with his men (equality).

## Why does this film have great potential for anti-racist RE?

Shows the actions of Shaw for his unit – small and big actions having an impact.

## Are there any warnings or issues for particular age groups?

Violence / War scenes and swearing

## Two or three RE activities to set when pupils have seen the film/clip:

1. Film review
2. Interview with Shaw (needs additional research)