

Name: _____ Period: _____

Hollywood's Take on the Cuban Missile Crisis

THIRTEEN DAYS

1. How did the Kennedy Administration know that the Soviet Union was putting ballistic missiles into Cuba?
2. How much warning would any US city in range of these MRBMs have?
3. Several references to Munich are made in the movie, what event are they referring to (you have to figure this out on your own)?
4. Why did some of the key decision makers want to avoid attacking or invading Cuba?
5. How will a “sneak attack” be played in the news, according to Bobby Kennedy?
6. Why is the word “quarantine” used instead of blockade?
7. The day after JFK addressed the nation about the “quarantine” in Cuba, various military leaders attempt to pressure him into the use of military force. **Explain what they try to get him to agree to/do – be as specific as possible.**

8. As part of the strategy to gain more information about the Cuban missile sites, low level flights are authorized by the President. **What does Kenny O'Donnell (Kevin Costner) tell the pilot he must not do and why does he say this?**

9. How quickly could the "quarantine" on Cuban have turned into WWII? **Be as specific as possible!**

10. Why would firing the Joint Chiefs of Staff look so bad for JFK, even as they defy his orders?

11. What role did the UN play in this crisis? Did UN involvement seem to help or hurt the situation? **Explain!**

12. Explain the back channel deal that the US & USSR are trying to work out (confirmed by Khrushchev's first letter).

13. What conclusion does the second letter from the USSR suggest?

14. Explain how the Kennedy Administration finally decided to respond to the two letters from the Kremlin. **Be specific in describing their solution.**

15. What kind of peace does President Kennedy speak of in his speech at the conclusion of the film?