



P.O.V.

Discussion Guide

Season **20**

49 Up

A film by Michael Apted



www.pbs.org/pov



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Writer

Faith Rogow, PhD
Insighters Educational Consulting

Research Editor

Angela LaSalle

Guide Producers, P.O.V.

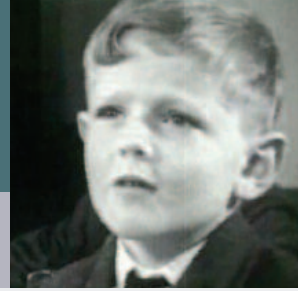
Eliza Licht
Director, Community Engagement and Education, P.O.V.

Jessica Lee
Outreach and Development Coordinator, P.O.V.

Irene Villaseñor
Youth Views Manager, P.O.V.

Design: Rafael Jiménez

Copy Editor: Joan D. Saunders



Introduction

49 Up is the seventh film in a landmark documentary series that began 42 years ago when filmmakers, inspired by the Jesuit maxim “Give me the child until he is 7 and I will give you the man,” interviewed a diverse group of 7-year-old children from all over England, asking them about their lives and their dreams for the future. The resulting documentary, *Seven Up*, was television’s first experiment in recording real people living their real lives.

Filmmaker Michael Apted, a researcher for the original film, has returned to interview the “children” every seven years since, at ages 14, 21, 28, 35, 42 and now again at age 49. This latest feature-length (120 minutes) chapter revisits questions of love, marriage, career, class and prejudice. Deftly interweaving footage from earlier films with contemporary interviews, it brings forth surprising ruminations about the *Up* film series itself as well as unexpected turns in individual lives.

As an outreach tool, **49 Up** invites audiences to ponder how people change over time. Can the adult already be found in the child of 7? How do people navigate between childhood dreams and adult reality? Which factors most influence life choices? Which experiences and values seem to be universal and which spring from culture and socioeconomic class? A remarkable filmmaking accomplishment, **49 Up** is a fascinating portrait of the human experience.



Children at play, as seen in *Seven Up*.



Background Information

Listed below are some of the events that provide context for the comments and experiences of the film’s subjects, organized by year of interview.

United States	Great Britain	World Events
1964		
<p>Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyndon B. Johnson elected president. • Warren Commission issues its report concluding that Lee Harvey Oswald alone was responsible for assassination of President John F. Kennedy. • Civil Rights Act becomes law, but racial tensions and inequality persist, resulting in violent protest and riots in dozens of cities over next several years. • After a U.S. destroyer is allegedly attacked off coast of North Vietnam, Congress passes Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Johnson power to take any action necessary to repel armed attacks on U.S. forces: thus, fighting in Vietnam escalates. • Surgeon General finds link between cancer and smoking and calls for federal regulation. • 24th Amendment to Constitution (eliminating poll tax) is ratified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harold Wilson (Labor) is prime minister. • U.K. abolishes death penalty. • Malta and Malawi become independent within the Commonwealth. • Just prior to his 90th birthday, Winston Churchill makes his final appearance at House of Commons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nelson Mandela and seven others sentenced to life imprisonment in South Africa. • Jawaharlal Nehru, who served 17 years as prime minister of India, dies. • African nations continue to shed their colonial rulers and declare independence, including Kenya, Tanzania (formerly Zanzibar and Tanganyika) and Zambia (formerly Northern Rhodesia). • Faisal becomes king of Saudi Arabia.
<p>Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs 30¢/gal. • Milk costs 95¢/gal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abolition of resale restrictions leads to rise of supermarkets. 	



1964

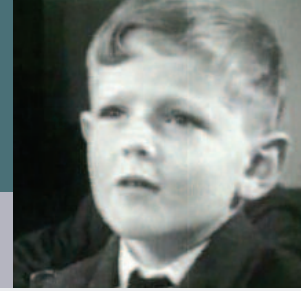
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>My Fair Lady</i> wins Academy Award for Best Picture. • <i>Mary Poppins</i> is box office hit. • Beatles top the charts with "I Want to Hold Your Hand"; Motown's Diana Ross and the Supremes also score a string of hits with songs like "Stop in the Name of Love" and "Baby Love." • <i>Jeopardy!</i> debuts on NBC with Art Fleming as host. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • London's <i>Daily Herald</i> (est. 1911) ceases publication and becomes the tabloid <i>Sun</i>. • Beatles top the music charts. • Popular movies include <i>Mary Poppins</i> and <i>Dr. Strangelove</i>. • <i>Steptoe and Son</i> attracts 21.54 million TV viewers. 	
Sports		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassius Clay (later known as Muhammad Ali) beats Sonny Liston and is crowned heavyweight champion of the world. • Golfers Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus enjoy success and popularity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long jumper Lynn Davies wins Olympic gold medal. 	
Trivia		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Vogue</i> magazine makes the miniskirt a hit. • U.S. toymaker Hasbro introduces GI Joe action figure. • Martin Luther King Jr. awarded Nobel Peace Prize. • World's Fair held in New York City. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a "brain drain," British scientists leave England in large numbers for opportunities in U.S. • 12 mail train robbers are given prison sentences totaling 307 years for crime that netted bandits £2.5 million pounds. • Term "op art" is coined; Bridget Riley popularized this with optically distorted geometric patterns in black and white that produced whole range of movements on a surface. • Mini skirts are fashionable. • Cultural clashes between Mods and Rockers disturb British sea resorts. 	



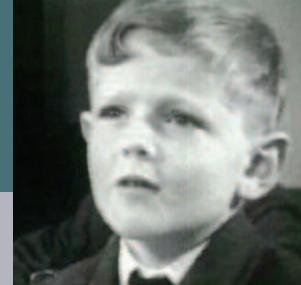
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
<p>Politics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Nixon is president. <i>The New York Times</i> begins publishing leaked government documents (later known as the Pentagon Papers) revealing secret U.S. involvement in Vietnam; according to a Harris public opinion poll, 60% of Americans oppose the war in Vietnam. Vietnam war expands into Laos. Weather Underground claims responsibility for an explosion in Senate Wing of the Capitol in Washington, D.C. Supreme Court rules that hiring policies must be the same for men and women, ending practice of job listings separated by gender. Ten guards and 32 prisoners killed when police storm New York's Attica Prison following five-day rebellion. Lt. William Calley found guilty of murder for his role in Mylai massacre. 26th Amendment giving 18-year-olds the vote is ratified after people argued that a person old enough to be drafted should be able to vote for those who have the power to send him to war. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edward Heath (Conservative) is prime minister. The Ulster Defense League increases violent attacks after Northern Ireland's newly elected prime minister imprisons members of Irish Republican Army and other militants. The Divorce Reform Act makes it much easier for a couple to dissolve a marriage— it created the "quickie divorce" and introduced the principle of irretrievable breakdown as grounds for separation; number of divorces would steadily climb over next two decades. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.N. votes to admit Communist China and expel Taiwan. Congo changes name to Zaire. With support from India, Bangladesh declares independence from Pakistan. Switzerland grants women the right to vote. General Idi Amin takes control of Uganda.
<p>Economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasoline costs 40¢/gal. Milk costs \$1.15/gal. President Nixon imposes federal wage freeze in attempt to curb inflation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British postal workers strike for 47 days. Rolls-Royce declares bankruptcy. Gasoline costs £0.33/gal. Britain adopts decimal currency, with new p, 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 50p coins swiftly replacing the old pounds, shillings and pence. 	



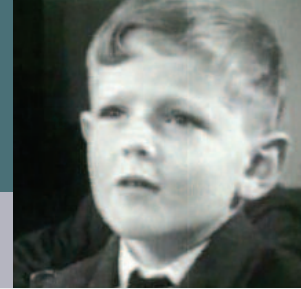
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
<p>Media and Entertainment</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The French Connection</i> wins Academy Award for Best Picture. • Television sitcom <i>All in the Family</i> premieres. • Cigarette advertising is banned from television. • Broadway hits include religiously inspired shows <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> and <i>Godspell</i>; <i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> surpasses <i>Hello, Dolly!</i> to become longest-running Broadway show in history. • Three Dog Night's <i>Joy to the World</i> tops the charts as No. 1 song. • Singer/songwriter Carole King releases <i>Tapestry</i>, which would become one of the best-selling albums of decade. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beatles split up; George Harrison's solo album, <i>All Things Must Pass</i>, tops the charts. • The risqué sitcom <i>The Benny Hill Show</i> is big hit among TV viewers. 	
<p>Sports</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tennis star Billie Jean King becomes first female athlete to win \$100,000 in single year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fatal stampede mars a Glasgow soccer game, leads to increased regulation and safety standards. 	
<p>Trivia</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Manson and three followers convicted of killing seven people. • Apollo 14 lands on moon, where astronaut Alan Shepard uses a makeshift club to drive golf balls in outer space; later that year, Apollo 15 crew drives a four-wheel lunar rover more than 17 miles on moon's surface. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church of England and Roman Catholic Church end 400-year-old dispute over meaning of the sacrament of Holy Communion. 	



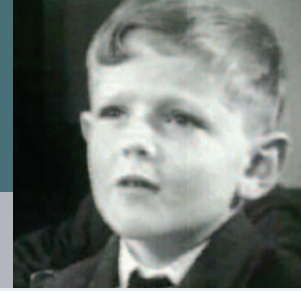
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Politics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jimmy Carter is president. • U.S. and Communist China establish full diplomatic relations. • Supreme Court upholds “reverse-discrimination” ruling in its Bakke decision, jeopardizing affirmative-action programs designed to help minority students gain admission into colleges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Callaghan (Labor) is prime minister. • Solomon Islands gain independence after 85 years of British rule. • European Court of Human Rights finds U.K. government guilty of mistreating prisoners in Northern Ireland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leftist Sandanistas lead guerrilla fight to overthrow Nicaraguan president Anastasio Somoza Debayle. • Violent riots break out against rule of the shah in Iran. • Former Italian prime minister Aldo Moro kidnapped and killed by members of Red Brigade. • Egypt and Israel sign peace accord at Camp David.
Economics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs 63¢/gal. • Milk costs \$1.71/gal. • Coal miners strike for 110 days, leading to energy shortages in coal-dependent communities across country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As U.S. dollar plunges in value against several European currencies, gold rises to record \$243.65/oz. • Gasoline costs £0.76/gal. • Strikes paralyze country in “Winter of Discontent.” 	
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Deer Hunter</i>, a film about the Vietnam War, wins Academy Award for Best Picture; other popular films include <i>Grease</i>, <i>Animal House</i> and <i>Annie Hall</i>. • Disco reigns supreme; soundtrack from <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> is top-selling album; Bee Gees release a string of hits. • <i>Garfield</i> debuts in newspaper comic pages. • Video game Space Invaders is introduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music from <i>Grease</i> and <i>Saturday Night Fever</i> dominate the charts. • <i>Sale of the Century</i> attracts 21.15 million TV viewers. 	



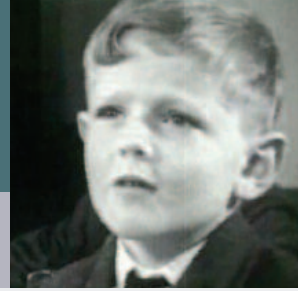
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Sports		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affirmed wins triple crown. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naomi James ends her solo round-the-world voyage under sail, beating by two days the record of Sir Francis Chichester. Scotland's Archie Gemmill scores critical goal in soccer's 1978 World Cup. 	
Trivia		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Molloy's book <i>Dress for Success</i> advises women to dress for success by wearing suits. Former San Francisco supervisor Dan White assassinates Mayor George Moscone and openly gay city supervisor Harvey Milk; an angry gay community is politically energized when White receives a minor sentence. Americans buy 13 million pairs of running shoes and 42 million pairs of "look-alike" jogger sneakers. More than 900 people die in mass murder/suicide at the People's Temple in Jonestown, Guyana. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World's first "test-tube baby," Louise Brown, is born. The Amoco oil tanker <i>Cadiz</i> runs aground the coast of Brittany, causing an ecological disaster; 18-mile-wide, 80 mile-long slick covered about 200 miles (320 km) of Brittany coastline. Mary Simpson, an American Episcopal priest, is first woman to preach at Westminster Abbey. 	



Background Information

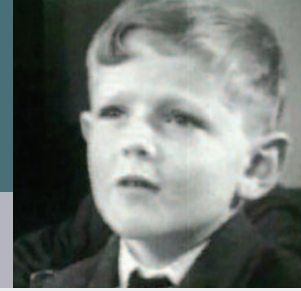
United States	Great Britain	World Events
Politics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ronald Reagan is president. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Margaret Thatcher (Conservative) is prime minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gorbachev becomes leader of Soviet Union. Greenpeace vessel Rainbow Warrior is bombed and sunk in Auckland harbor by French DGSE agents.
Economics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasoline costs \$1.09/gal. Milk costs \$2.16/gal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gasoline costs £1.946/gal. Yearlong miners strike ends, but many coal mines remain closed. Government prepares to privatize major national industries. 	
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Out of Africa</i> wins Academy Award for Best Picture. <i>The Cosby Show</i> is most popular series on TV. <i>Back to the Future</i> and films starring "Brat Pack" teens are popular. Bruce Springsteen's album <i>Born in the U.S.A.</i> tops the charts. Rock Hudson dies of AIDS, publicizing the disease and challenging stereotypes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hit songs include "19" by Paul Hardcastle and Jennifer Rush's "The Power of Love." <i>Open All Hours</i> attracts 18.96 million TV viewers. Live Aid pop concerts in Philadelphia and London raise more than \$50 million for famine relief in Ethiopia. 	



1985

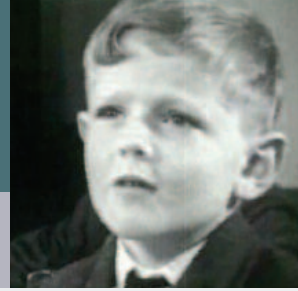
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
<p>Sports</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chicago Bears create “Super Bowl Shuffle.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland’s Barry McGuigan wins world featherweight boxing championship. 52 fans were killed and hundreds were injured in fire at Bradford Stadium. 	
<p>Trivia</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hole in ozone layer, first detected in 1977, is now indisputable. Shoulder pads dominate women’s fashion. AOL, laser printers and Nintendo all make their first appearance. New Coke becomes biggest flop in marketing history; a few months after its debut, old Coke returns as “Coke Classic.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first .com domain name, symbolics.com, is registered by the Symbolics Corporation. However, .edu domains, for educational institutions, still predominate. The nation starts screening blood donations for AIDS. 	



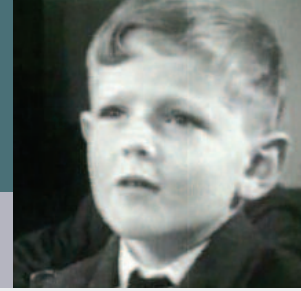
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Politics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George H.W. Bush is president. • Former Yugoslavia disintegrates into war based on ethnic, national and religious divisions. • South central L.A. experiences race riots following acquittal of police officers videotaped beating Rodney King. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Major (Conservative) is prime minister. • Neo-Nazi group White Wolves declares that "all nonwhites must permanently leave the British Isles before the year is out. Jews and nonwhites who remain after 1999 has ended will be exterminated." The group claims responsibility for bombings in minority areas that have killed two and injured 115 British citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. and U.N. intervene in Somalia to end famine and civil war. • European Union is founded with signing of Maastricht treaty.
Economics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs \$1.05/gal. • Milk costs \$2.78/gal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs £1.832/gal. 	
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Unforgiven</i> wins Academy Award for Best Picture. • Johnny Carson retires after 20 years as nation's most popular late night TV host. • Popular movies include <i>Wayne's World</i> and <i>Aladdin</i>. • In popular music circles, boy bands like Boyz II Men enjoy success, as does country crossover singer Garth Brooks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" topped the music charts. • <i>EastEnders</i> was most popular TV series. 	



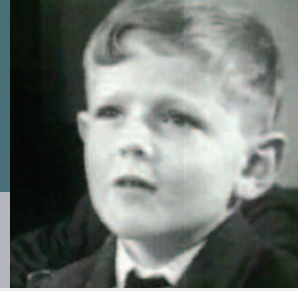
Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
<p>Sports</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popular athletes include Michael Jordan (basketball); home run hitter Barry Bonds (baseball); Steve Young and Emmitt Smith (football). 		
<p>Trivia</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Gotti, the “Teflon Don,” was convicted of racketeering and murder based primarily on testimony by a close member of his crime syndicate, Sammy “the Bull” Gravano. Hurricane Andrew hits Florida, leaving 14 dead and 250,000 homeless. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal family beset with divorces: first Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, then Princess Anne, and finally, Princess Diana and Prince Charles. Channel tunnel opens, linking London and Paris by rail. 	



Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Politics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Clinton is president; he is impeached but acquitted by the Senate of perjury and obstruction of justice. • U.S. returns control of Panama Canal to Panama. • For four months, an international custody battle over Cuban preschooler Elian Gonzales dominates news. • Two boys, 17 and 18 years old, go on rampage at Columbine High School, killing 15, including themselves. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Blair (Labor) is prime minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geneva Convention reaches its 50th anniversary. • Euro currency is introduced. • Human population of world surpasses 6 billion.
Economics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs \$1.22/gal. • Milk costs \$3.32/gal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs £2.814/gal. 	
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Popular music stars include Eminem, Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears, and Backstreet Boys; Cher continues her more than 30-year-long career with No. 1 hit "Believe." • Harry Potter captures readers' imaginations. • Napster foments online music sharing. • Popularity of low-budget <i>Blair Witch Project</i> surprises Hollywood. • <i>Who Wants to be a Millionaire</i> comes to TV. • Young children play and watch Pokemon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Edward and his long-time girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, are married. • 19.21 million TV viewers in Great Britain make <i>Who Wants to Be a Millionaire</i> a hit in U.K. 	



Background Information

1999

United States

Great Britain

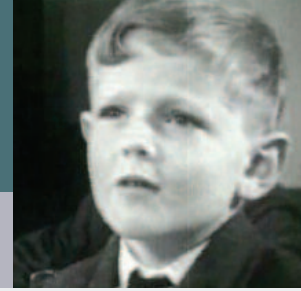
World Events

Sports

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lance Armstrong wins his first Tour de France. • Tiger Woods dominates golf world. • Led by Mia Hamm, U.S. Women's Soccer Team wins World Cup. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Hendry wins record seventh snooker title. | |
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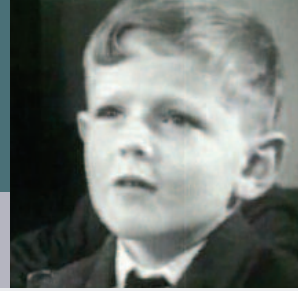
Trivia

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|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amid overblown threats of cascading computer failures and widespread disaster when the new millennium begins, billions of dollars are spent worldwide on Y2K computer upgrades. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millenium Dome opens in London. | |
|---|---|--|



Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
Politics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George W. Bush is president. • West Virginia coal mine explosion, the Sago Mine disaster, leaves 13 miners trapped. • Enron executives are tried for accounting scandal revealed in 2001. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Blair (Labor) is prime minister. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saddam Hussein convicted of war crimes and hung. • North Korea conducts nuclear tests. • "Crocodile Hunter" Steve Irwin dies. • It is declared that Pluto is not a planet. • War in Iraq continues. • Hugo Chavez is reelected president of Venezuela.
Economics		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs \$2.79/gal. (2007). • Milk costs \$3.20/gal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gasoline costs £4.041/gal. 	
Media and Entertainment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Departed</i> wins Academy Award for Best Picture. • Daniel Powter's song "Bad Day" climbs the charts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>CSI: Miami</i> is most popular TV show in U.K. 	
Sports		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several top athletes questioned for using performance-enhancing drugs: Tour de France winner Floyd Landis, home run hitter Barry Bonds, 2004 gold medalist Justin Gatlin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England unveils World Cup squad with David Beckham as captain. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French captain and soccer icon Zinedine Zidane head-butts Italian defender Marco Materazzi in final minutes of World Cup.

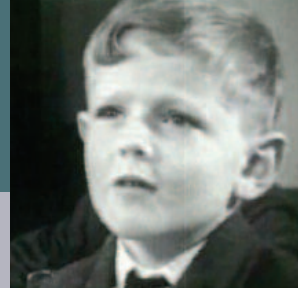


Background Information

United States	Great Britain	World Events
<p>Trivia</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fashion trends include skinny jeans, miniskirts and minidresses, platform shoes, wide belts, ballet flats, tunics. 		

Sources:

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Background Information

Selected People Featured in 49 Up



Bruce Balden – As an upper-class schoolboy, Bruce wanted to be a missionary in Africa so he could “teach people who are not civilized to be, more or less, good.” After graduating from Oxford, he taught in Bangladesh, then in London’s East End (at Tony’s old school). He married for the first time at the age of 42, to Penny, a fellow teacher.



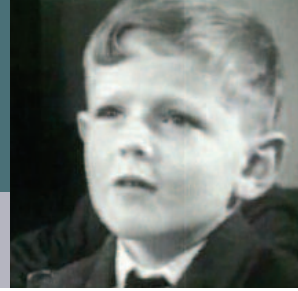
Jackie Bassett – Girlhood friend of Sue and Lynn, Jackie was married in her 20s and divorced by age 35. She had a son from a brief relationship after her divorce, and two more sons from passing encounters. At the time of the film, Jackie was living with her three boys in a council flat near Glasgow, Scotland. She suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and survives on benefits.



Simon Basterfield – Simon, the only person of color featured in the series, is of mixed race. He and Paul lived in the same children’s home. His parents never married, and he did not know his father. A warehouse worker, he married, had five children, divorced and remarried. He is estranged from two of his children from his first marriage. He had a son with his second wife, Vienetta, and they also care for foster children.



Andrew Brackfield – As an upper-class youngster, Andrew attended boarding school. He married, became a solicitor and is partner of a law firm. The eldest of his two sons is planning to go to the same boarding school that Andrew attended.



Background Information

Selected People Featured in 49 Up



John Brisby – As an upper-class youngster, John attended boarding school. He eventually graduated from Oxford and became a barrister. Inspired by his Bulgarian mother and his wife, daughter of a former ambassador to Bulgaria, John, who is a political conservative, did relief work for Oxfam in Bulgaria. He has been an intermittent participant in the film series.



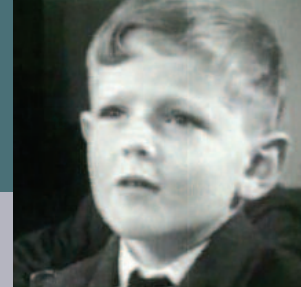
Susan (Sue) Davis – Part of the trio of girls from working-class backgrounds — the other two are Jackie and Lynn — Sue married at 24 and was divorced by 35. She has raised two children as a single parent.



Nicholas (Nick) Hitchon (and wife, Chrissy) – Son of a farmer, Nick eventually attended Oxford and became a nuclear physicist. He married, moved to the United States to take a job at the University of Wisconsin, had a son, Adam, with his first wife, got divorced and eventually remarried.



Neil Hughes – From a middle-class family from the suburbs of Liverpool, Neil struggles against mental illness. Homeless, he wanders through London, the Highlands in Scotland, and even stays for a time at Bruce's apartment. Eventually Neil became a born-again Christian and Liberal Democrat and started participating in local politics, including serving as a district councilor in Eden (northwest England).



Background Information

Selected People Featured in 49 Up



Lynn Johnson – In *Seven Up*, Lynn’s ambition was to work in Woolworth’s. Instead, she married at 19 and went to work in a library. Lynn was the only one of the three girlfriends — the other two are Sue and Jackie — to turn her original job into a lifelong career. Mother of two, Lynn battles a life-threatening brain condition. When she loses her formerly dependable job as a children’s librarian, she struggles to recapture a sense of security.



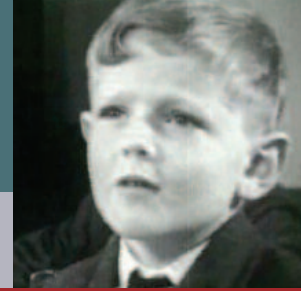
Paul Kligerman (and wife, Sue) – A child of divorced parents, Paul lived in the same children’s home as Simon, but by his early teens had emigrated with his father and step-mother to Australia. Later on, he worked different jobs, including as a bricklayer and a sign painter. At one point, he battled with depression. Paul and Sue have two children, and Paul talks proudly of his daughter, the first member of his family to attend university.



Suzanne (Suzy) Lusk – From a wealthy background, the young Suzy experienced her parents’ divorce and dreamed of creating a more stable family. She is now married to a successful lawyer.



Tony Walker (and wife, Debbie) – As a boy, the outgoing Tony set his sights on jockeying, but became a cabbie instead, both in film and television roles and in real life. He created a solid middle-class home for his wife and three children, and though the marriage has had its ups and downs (including Tony’s infidelity), the couple managed to stay together and are now proud grandparents.



General Discussion Questions

Immediately after the film, you may want to give people a few quiet moments to reflect on what they have seen. If the mood seems tense, before you open the discussion you may want to pose a general question and give people some time to themselves to jot down or think about their answers.

Unless you think participants are so uncomfortable that they can't engage until they have had a break, don't encourage people to leave the room between the film and the discussion. If you save your break for an appropriate moment during the discussion, you won't lose the feeling of the film as you begin your dialogue.

As suggested, one way to get a discussion going is to pose a general question, such as:

- **If you could ask anyone in the film a single question, who would you ask and what would you ask?**
- **If you could have dinner with one of the subjects in the film, who would you pick as a dinner partner and why?**
- **If friends asked you what this film was about, what would you tell them?**
- **Did anything in this film surprise you? If so, what? Why was it surprising?**
- **What insights or inspiration did you gain from this film? What did you learn about the film's topics and/or about yourself?**



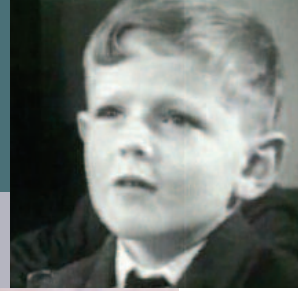
Jackie, Lynn and Sue, as seen in *49 Up*.



Jackie, Lynn and Sue, as seen in *14 Up*.



Jackie, Lynn and Sue, as seen in *Seven Up*.



Discussion Prompts



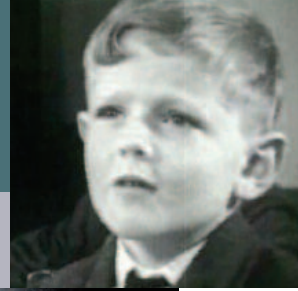
Paul and his wife Susan, in *28 Up*.

Social Issues

- Consider insights the film offers about the following:
 - Marriage, divorce and expectations for spouses
 - Family values
 - Parenting
 - Grandparenting
 - Education

In the film, who most closely shares your experiences and/or opinions on these issues?

- What do you learn about human desires and dreams from the film? Do you see universal themes or are the portraits culturally specific to an industrialized Western nation?
- How does each of the film's subjects define success? How do their definitions relate to how happy or satisfied they seem? How do their definitions compare with your definition?
- The film examines the Jesuit maxim "Give me a child until he is 7 and I will give you the man." Did you find yourself accurately able to predict the futures of the film's subjects after seeing them as children? In your view, which factors seemed most critical in influencing the lives of these children as they evolved into adults?
- How did socioeconomic class shape the children's dreams for their future? Did the children's economic background accurately predict where they would end up? Beyond earning power, how do the jobs they hold relate to class identity? How do the homes and neighborhoods they live in reflect (or not) that identity?
- How were choices about careers and family influenced by gender?



Discussion Prompts

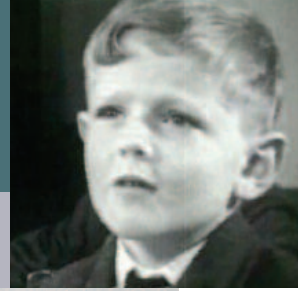


The subjects of the Up series, as seen in *21 Up*.

- Many of the film's original subjects are now parents or grandparents. What kinds of values have their children learned from the parents featured in the film? What kinds of values do you hope are passed on to young people today?
- Several of the film's participants attended boarding school at very young ages. How does this challenge or affirm your notions about proper parenting, children's maturity/developmental abilities and/or the role of families in socialization?
- How do hopes for the future and/or self-perceptions change over time? Which values and/or perceptions tend to stay the same over time?

Media Literacy / Filmmaking

- Several of the film's subjects indicated that they found it difficult to be part of the film series. Would you be willing to participate in such a project or allow your children to participate? Why or why not? Consider how Sue's experience relates to your answer. She said that she found being in the film to be "very painful, not an experience I've enjoyed in any way. Every seven years it throws up issues that I guess we all learn to put into compartments between the seven years and then it all gets opened up again and it's difficult. ... I like my privacy. I don't like however many million people picking over my life."
- As a 21-year-old, Jackie was offended by the filmmaker's question about her experience with men prior to her marriage. Where would you draw the line between revealing enough to offer insight and keeping things private?

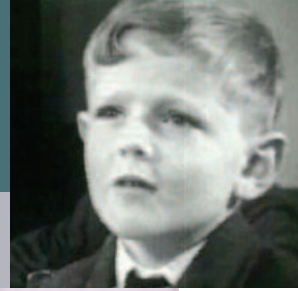


Discussion Prompts



The men and women from the *Up* series at age 24.

- Sue rhetorically asks, "What's the point of people going into people's lives and saying, 'Why do you like this and why don't you like that?' I say there's no point in it." What do you think you've learned, if anything, by looking in on the lives of the people in the film? How do the topics covered in the *Up* series compare with the kind of personal information revealed in current TV "reality shows" and "talk shows"?
- On the surface, this film provides information about its subjects, but as Jackie says, "You [filmmaker Michael Apter] will edit this program as you see fit. I have got no control over that. You definitely come across as this is your idea of what you want to do and how you see us and that's how you portray us. This one may be the first one that's about us rather than about your perception of us." In your view, what do the film and the questions asked reveal about the filmmaker? What are the responsibilities you think documentarians have to their subject(s) and audience?
- Sue says, "People seem to read into what they think we all think ... most of them come up with things they think, which is nothing like what's going through my head." Others have observed that what people come to think about those in the film says more about the observers than about the people in the film. What do you think your conclusions might reveal about you?

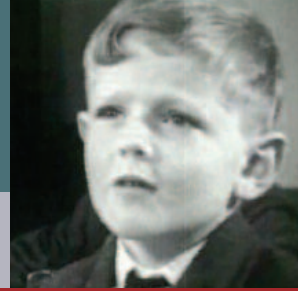


Taking Action



John, as seen in *28 Up*.

- Document yourself and/or your family. Take (or review) your own home movies and compare across time. Consider sharing your records with others, perhaps via Flickr or YouTube. Tag them with P.O.V.
- Host a block party so people in your neighborhood can learn more about each other and to celebrate the diversity in your own community.
- Research sociological patterns of marriage, divorce and childbirth for the years covered in **49 Up** (1964, 1970, 1977, 1984, 1991, 1998 and 2005). Investigate the historical context that might have influenced people's lives in each of these years and assess how typical or representative the film's subjects were.
- Screen **49 Up** with similar documentaries, inspired by the *Up* series, from other countries. Films have been made featuring children from the former Soviet Union, South Africa, Australia and the United States.



Resources

FILM-RELATED WEB SITES

Original Online Content on P.O.V. Interactive (www.pbs.org/pov)

P.O.V.'s 49 Up Web site
www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla

The companion website to *49 Up* offers exclusive streaming video clips from the film, a podcast version of the filmmaker interview and a wealth of additional resources, including a Q&A with filmmaker Michael Apted, ample opportunities for viewers to “talk back” and talk to each other about the film, and the following special features:

PHOTO GALLERY

Can't remember who's who? Watch the *Up* series participants grow up in this interactive gallery of photos.

TIMELINE

A group of collage artists share their interpretations of the *Up* series years.

More About 49 Up

BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE
www.bfi.org.uk/features/interviews/apted.html -

In 2005, the British Film Institute presented this interview with filmmaker Michael Apted.

NPR ON THE MEDIA
www.onthemedial.org/transcripts/2006/10/06/07

In 2006, filmmaker Michael Apted was interviewed on the NPR series On the Media.

KCRW THE TREATMENT “MICHAEL APTED”
http://www.kcrw.com/etc/programs/tt/tt061115michael_apted

Film critic Elvis Mitchell interviews Michael Apted about the *Up* series, the education system in the United Kingdom and how it has affected the *Up* participants.

What's Your P.O.V.?

P.O.V.'s online Talking Back Tapestry is a colorful, interactive representation of your feelings about 49 Up.

Listen to other P.O.V. viewers talk about the film and add your thoughts by calling 1-800-688-4768.
www.pbs.org/pov/talkingback.html

TIME MAGAZINE: “KEEPING UP WITH THE 7 UP”

<http://www.time.com/time/arts/article/0,8599,1565038,00.html>

This extensive piece provides background on the *Up* series and serves as an excellent introduction to the entire enterprise.

HACKWRITERS.COM

www.hackwriters.com/Upseries.htm

This review by Dan Schneider offers a comprehensive background on the series.

Documentary Film

DOCUMENTARY EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

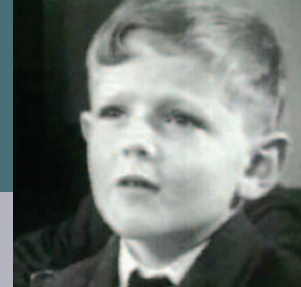
www.der.org

The Documentary Educational Resources site is a collection of information about documentary films and filmmaking.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

www.documentaryfilms.net

This website, designed for documentary filmmakers, includes a variety of resources related to the industry.



How to Buy the Film

To order *49 Up*, go to: www.firstrunfeatures.com



Produced by American Documentary, Inc. and entering its 20th season on PBS, the award-

winning P.O.V. series is the longest-running series on television to feature the work of America's best contemporary-issue independent filmmakers. Airing Tuesdays at 10 p.m., June through October, with primetime specials during the year, P.O.V. has brought over 250 award-winning documentaries to millions nationwide, and now has a Webby Award-winning online series, P.O.V.'s Borders. Since 1988, P.O.V. has pioneered the art of presentation and outreach using independent nonfiction media to build new communities in conversation about today's most pressing social issues. More information about P.O.V. is available online at www.pbs.org/pov.

Major funding for P.O.V. is provided by the John D. and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Ford Foundation, the Educational Foundation of America, PBS and public television viewers. Funding for P.O.V.'s *Diverse Voices Project* is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, with additional support from JPMorgan Chase Foundation, the official sponsor of P.O.V.'s 20th Anniversary Campaign. P.O.V. is presented by a consortium of public television stations, including KCET Los Angeles, WGBH Boston, and Thirteen/WNET New York. Simon Kilmurry is executive director of American Documentary | P.O.V.



The P.O.V. 20th Anniversary Collection is a limited-edition DVD collection produced in partnership with Docurama. The collection contains 15 titles reflecting the range and diversity of P.O.V. films, including the series' inaugural broadcast, *American Tongues*, by Louis Alvarez and Andrew Kolker.

Available at www.amdoc.org/shop.

P.O.V. Community Engagement and Education

P.O.V. provides Discussion Guides for all films as well as curriculum-based P.O.V. Lesson Plans for select films to promote the use of independent media among varied constituencies. Available free online, these originally produced materials ensure the ongoing use of P.O.V.'s documentaries with educators, community workers, opinion leaders and general audiences nationally. P.O.V. also works closely with local public-television stations to partner with local museums, libraries, schools and community-based organizations to raise awareness of the issues in P.O.V.'s films.

P.O.V. Interactive

www.pbs.org/pov

P.O.V.'s award-winning Web department produces a Web-only showcase for interactive storytelling, P.O.V.'s Borders. It also produces a Web site for every P.O.V. presentation, extending the life of P.O.V. films through community-based and educational applications, focusing on involving viewers in activities, information and feedback on the issues. In addition, www.pbs.org/pov houses our unique Talking Back feature, filmmaker interviews, viewer resources and information on the P.O.V. archives as well as myriad special sites for previous P.O.V. broadcasts.

American Documentary, Inc.

www.americandocumentary.org

American Documentary, Inc. (AmDoc) is a multimedia company dedicated to creating, identifying and presenting contemporary stories that express opinions and perspectives rarely featured in mainstream-media outlets. AmDoc is a catalyst for public culture, developing collaborative strategic-engagement activities around socially relevant content on television, online and in community settings. These activities are designed to trigger action, from dialogue and feedback to educational opportunities and community participation.

Front cover: Neil, as seen in *49 Up* (main image).

Neil playing chess, as seen in *7 + 7* (inset).

All photos courtesy of First Run Features

20th Anniversary Sponsor

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