

AT THE HEART OF THE 20TH CENTURY

# LOST DREAMS



**Lost Dreams** features the personal story of one young woman, a Ukrainian immigrant named Kateryna. It follows the struggle of her family and the birth of Canada's labour movement, in Manitoba circa 1920.

*At the Heart of the 20th Century* is a series of short videos about ordinary people caught in the sweep of major events in Canada's past. Each focuses on a fictional character who offers personal perspectives based on facts, as black-and-white archival stills and film images capture the spirit of the times. As curriculum enhancers, these videos can help change students' attitudes about learning history, serving as stimulating starting points for discussion and further study.

Director: Daniel Frenette  
5 minutes, 51 seconds

Producer: Pierre Lapointe  
Order number: B9199 034



Closed captioned. A decoder is required.

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Front photo: Lewis W. Hine, National Gallery of Canada



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**LOST DREAMS**



VHS

B9199 034



A National Film Board of Canada Production

# LOST DREAMS

By putting human faces on important episodes from our past, the original vignettes that make up the **At the Heart of the 20th Century** series draw viewers back in time to experience history in a more personal way. They are intellectual appetizers for teenagers that show that history is not about boring facts and dates — it is also about the touching and powerful stories of real people.

In **Lost Dreams**, Kateryna Ewanchuck, a young Ukrainian in Manitoba, reflects on the oppression her people faced as immigrants to Canada. Having watched her father's dream of owning a farm slip away due to discrimination and hard times, Kateryna takes on the fight for social justice, participating in the One Big Union and the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919.

## Pre-viewing questions and activities

- Discuss what life would have been like for pioneer farmers living on the Prairies without electricity or other modern conveniences. Where would they have got their food, clothes, water and other necessities? Discuss the importance of family and neighbours to isolated farmers. What kind of events and issues would tie people together? Create a web to reflect what kind of community and values would grow from this lifestyle.
- Visit a museum with clothing, tools, etc. from rural life in the 1920s, or research these artifacts at a library. Have students imagine that they are living on the Prairies in 1920, and write a diary entry describing an everyday chore while using the tools and wearing the clothing of the time.

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**Producer**  
Pierre Lapointe

**Executive Producer**  
David Verrall

**5 minutes**  
**51 seconds**

**Order number:**  
**B9199 034**



## Suggested post-viewing questions and activities

- What did students learn about the narrator from the video? If you could meet Kateryna, what questions would you ask her about Canada's past?
- How is Kateryna's life different from today's teens? How are things different/the same for immigrants today?
- Kateryna's family faced many problems: poverty, fitting in to a new society, exploitation and discrimination. What laws and social policies have been created since the 1920s to help eliminate these hardships?
- Have students collect newspaper and magazine articles on a contemporary strike and answer the following:
  - Who was involved and what were the issues?
  - What proposals came from each side? What steps were followed in the collective bargaining process?
  - What strike actions were taken? What were the reactions of the management, government and media?
  - How long did the strike last? Did the workers receive strike pay?
  - How did the strike affect the company and the public?
  - How did the settlement relate to the initial demands?
  - How did the media cover the strike (location and factual reporting, editorials)? Can you find any biases?
  - Could the strike have been avoided? Suggest solutions.

## Related resources from the NFB

The NFB's Web site ([www.nfb.ca](http://www.nfb.ca)) contains a wealth of resources for teachers of history.

Other titles in the **At the Heart of the 20th Century** series are **Linked by a Wavelength** and **Death Rained Down from the Sky**. This series is also available in French.