

Use “The Scene” to introduce “About Demons” the High School Sunday school lesson for October 30, 2016. The lesson is found on page 55 of *High School Teacher* by Standard Publishing.



Darth Vader. Kylo Ren. The Joker. Daleks. Edward Snowden. Russian hackers. Stepmothers. Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton.

Who would be on your list of top villains?

Our villains these days are often complicated characters with interesting stories. We learn these stories as they unfold on pages, or on the screen. And many of the most popular villains are shown as marred, wounded, disabled in some way. They are hurt and damaged souls, filling up what they lack in the way of affection or admiration by inflicting hurt and damage on others. In an effort to become great, they make others less.

The word *villain* actually comes from an old French term that meant something along the lines of “country bumpkin.” The villain was the town yokel. He or she represented ignorance. Villains of this sort might make rude comments or commit social mistakes because they simply didn’t know any better, and perhaps, they didn’t care enough to be better.

Villains today have evolved into images of super-intelligent antiheroes and even lovable bad guys. Sometimes when we watch the struggle between good guys and bad play out in the movies, we start to wonder who we really want to win. And other times we realize that without those villains, our heroes would not be who they are. Who is James Bond without some evildoer to vanquish? And is James Bond even the good guy? Or is he just a slightly more attractive baddie? How do you decide?

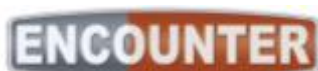
*As students arrive, give each of them a copy of the above article to read. Then discuss it in this way:*

**Who would you put on your top 5 list of villains?**

**Are all villains evildoers? Explain your answer.**

**What do you think is the difference between human villains we know and the demons described in the Bible?**

**We can name a lot of villains and evildoers. But the Bible also speaks of evildoers of the spiritual realm. Today we’re going to look through Scripture to discover three characteristics of demons.**



MEETING GOD FACE-TO-FACE

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