

On Screen

# APOCALYPSE NOW

Directed by F. F. Coppola (1979)  
Starring Marlon Brando, Robert Duvall,  
Martin Sheen and Dennis Hopper.

Nine Oscar nominations went to this American epic war film produced and directed by Francis Ford Coppola in 1979. Coppola took Conrad's novel *Heart of Darkness* and used it as a parody for the Vietnam War. The similarities are all too obvious; both works are set in the jungle, both principle characters (Marlowe in Conrad's work and Willard in Coppola's) must go into the very depths of the jungle to find a man called Kurtz and both works pose the same questions: What does it mean to be civilised? Who are the savages? How can power change people? And where does the real heart of darkness lie?

Apocalypse Now  
(1979) by  
F. F. Coppola -  
Scene 1

## The story on screen so far...

*After months on his boat in the jungle Captain Willard is finally approaching Kurtz's camp. Only two other soldiers remain alive on board his boat.*



## OVER TO YOU

### SCENE 1

#### 1 Watch the first scene and focus your attention on the following observation questions.

1. At the beginning of the scene who or what can we see along the river bank?
2. What is Willard doing on the boat?
3. How does the boat appear in the context of the jungle? Choose:

- threatening  
 small  
 insignificant  
 modern

#### 2 Watch the scene again and state:

1. What does Willard feel more than fear?
2. Who is the 'him' he refers to?
3. What effect does the music have?