Possible Assignments

- **Reflection Paper:** The film is a story about a boy (Hany) trying to fit in at a new school, where the students are a different religion and a different social class. Write about ONE of these differences.

  - How is his new school different from his old one? How does he try to hide his upper-class background? (Consider his transportation to school, his “style,” his educational achievements.) How does socioeconomic background (how rich a family is) affect the schools – in Egypt and in the U.S.?

  - Why does he hide his Christian identity? When the principal hears that he has gotten in a fight, why does he react so harshly to Hany’s opponent? Why does Hany’s mother get upset at this special treatment? Compare the situation with the way minorities are treated in U.S. schools.

  - One of the school monitors comments that there are those who eat and those who are eaten. What does he mean by that (not just literally but figuratively)? Do you agree with this commentary about life?

- **Possible Topics for a Research Paper:**
  - Research the culture and traditions of the Coptic Christians.
  - Write about the struggle of the Christians of Egypt since the Arab Spring.

- **Creative Writing:**
  - The movie is told as if from Hany’s perspective. Retell the story from the point of view of his mother, Sarah (the girl he likes), OR Mo’men (his friend at the new school).

    - Imagine that Hany’s family somehow becomes wealthy again, and he returns to his old school three years after leaving it. Write a story about Hany’s adjustment to the change in school. What would happen to his friendship with Mo’men? How would his academic work be affected?

    - Hany’s mother had hoped to leave Egypt and go to live in an English-speaking country. Imagine that Hany and his mother come to the U.S. soon after the events in the movie. Write about Hany’s experience adjusting to school in the U.S.
- **Art/Architecture:**
  - Make a poster/collage showing Christian art/architecture in Egypt (inside and outside of churches) one side and Muslim art/architecture in Egypt (inside and outside of mosques) on the other side.