

Hearing Impairment (Deafness): Wired for Sound (Non-Fiction) Est. Time: 2 Weeks Reading/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Gain a better understanding of the challenges of being deaf and of varying attitudes toward cochlear implants.

Synopsis

Beverly Biderman recounts her journey through progressive hearing loss, which resulted in profound deafness by the time she was twelve years old. In a candid and no-nonsense style, she describes in detail the trials, frustrations, and exhaustion of adapting to a hearing world, both with and without a cochlear implant.

Activity

Read the following book and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *Wired for Sound: A Journey into Hearing* (1998)

Author: Beverly Biderman

Publisher: Trifolium Books Inc. • Toronto

For Your Information

To learn more about hearing impairments, visit:

- [Deafness and Hearing Loss](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Hearing Loss in Children](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. What caused Beverly's progressive hearing loss?
2. What is a cochlear implant?
3. Why is Beverly uncomfortable when people overly compliment her good speech and her achievements?
4. In the author's opinion, why do many Deaf individuals shun cochlear implants?
5. Beverly decided to forgo having her own biological children so as not to risk having a child who is deaf. Explain your thoughts and feelings about her decision.
6. In your opinion, which would be easier: having normal hearing and then progressively losing it or simply never having normal hearing at all? Explain.