

Orthopedic Impairment: Notting Hill (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class Time

Objective

Better understand the perceptions and media portrayals of an individual with an orthopedic impairment (sometimes referred to as a physical disability).

Synopsis

William Thacker, owner of a small travel bookstore in England, becomes romantically involved with a famous actress. His close friends play an important role in his life and support him as he struggles with the challenges of this relationship. One of his friends, Bella, has an orthopedic impairment and uses a wheelchair.

Activity

View the following movie and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *Notting Hill* (1999)

Studio: Universal Pictures

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. How is Bella treated by her group of friends?
2. How does her physical disability affect her relationship with her husband?
3. Think about how an individual with a physical impairment is portrayed in this movie.
 - a. Do you think the portrayal is accurate? Why or why not?
 - b. Do you think the portrayal is typical? Explain.
 - c. How do you feel about this depiction of an individual with a physical disability?
4. Do you think the relationships Bella has with others would be depicted differently if Bella did not have a disability? Explain.