



## Deafness: Mr. Holland's Opus (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

### Synopsis

Mr. Holland is a musician and music teacher who aspires to become a composer. As a man dedicated to music, he struggles as a teacher and as the parent of a profoundly deaf child who cannot share his passion. He ultimately realizes the profound effect that he has had on his students throughout his career, and is able to build a relationship with his son.

### Activity

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

Title: Mr. Holland's Opus (1996)

Studio: Hollywood Pictures

### Questions

1. How is the son's disability discovered?
2. What is the fundamental relationship issue between Mr. Holland and his son?
3. What are some techniques suggested to the family to help them more effectively include their child in their life?
4. What is one technique that Mr. Holland devised to help his son understand music? What was the purpose of this activity?
5. This movie focuses on issues of deafness, music, and personal relationships. How did this film affect the way you perceive a person with a profound hearing loss (e.g., developing understanding, inducing sympathy, or gaining feelings of empowerment)?
6. Part of this story focuses on the father-son theme. How is their relationship similar to or different from relationships that do not involve deafness?
7. Can you think of any other ways in which Mr. Holland and his son could have related to one another?



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