

## Deafness: Mr. Holland's Opus (Movie) Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

### Objective

Gain a better understanding of the impact of a hearing impairment on an individual and his or her family.

### 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 child who is profoundly deaf with whom he cannot share his passion. He ultimately realizes the significant impact 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

#### 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. How is Mr. Holland's 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 individuals who are deaf or have a profound hearing loss?
6. Part of this story focuses on the father-son theme. How is their relationship similar to or different from that of other fathers and sons?
7. Describe other ways in which Mr. Holland and his son could have related to one another.