



Speech/Language Impairment: My Left Foot (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

Synopsis

Based on a true story, *My Left Foot* tells the story of Christy Brown, a man born with cerebral palsy and who grew up in a poor, working-class family in Ireland. His dedicated and loving mother taught him to use the strongest part of his body, his left foot. As he grows older, he faces new and different frustrations but becomes a great writer and artist, overcoming many of his challenges.

Activity

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

Title: My Left Foot (1989)

Studio: HBO Studios

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Christy has a condition that affects his speech and causes him and his mother to seek out the help of a speech therapist. What is the condition?
2. What exercises does Christy's tutor, Dr. Eileen Cole, use?
3. Think back to the demonstrations in the film. Describe each intervention used by Christy and explain its effectiveness.
4. In this movie, speech is a top priority for Christy to master, in spite of other disability-related challenges. Why is this so?
5. Do you agree with Christy's priority on speech? Explain your answer.
6. Christy is a unique character in cinematic history. What traits make him so distinctive?



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