

## Cerebral Palsy: My Left Foot (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

### Objective

Gain a better understanding of the challenges that a person with cerebral palsy might encounter.

### Overview

Based on a true story, *My Left Foot* chronicles the story of Christy Brown, who grew up in a poor, working-class family in Ireland. Christy was born with cerebral palsy, which resulted in almost complete paralysis and a speech impairment. Although he could not walk or speak, his dedicated and loving mother taught him to use the strongest part of his body, his left foot, the only part of his body that was not affected by his paralysis. As he grew older, he faced new and different frustrations but overcame many of his challenges, becoming a great writer and artist.

### Activity

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

Title: *My Left Foot* (1989)

Studio: HBO Studios

#### For Your Information

To learn more about cerebral palsy, visit:

- [Cerebral Palsy](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [Cerebral Palsy \(CP\)](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Christy has cerebral palsy, which affects his speech and causes him and his mother to seek out the help of a speech therapist.
  - a. Describe each intervention used by Christy's tutor, Dr. Eileen Cole, to address his speech condition.
  - b. Explain the effectiveness of the interventions.
2. In spite of other disability related challenges, improved speech is a top priority for Christy. Why is this so?
3. Do you agree with Christy's priority on speech? Explain.
4. What other disability-related challenges did Christy experience?