



Visual Impairment: Scent of a Woman (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

Synopsis

This movie depicts the relationship between a young man named Charlie—a scholarship student at an exclusive preparatory school in New Hampshire—and a blind veteran named Lt. Col. Frank Slade. Charlie agrees to look after Frank to earn extra money over the Thanksgiving holiday. Frank, a cantankerous and cynical bully, completely surprises Charlie with tickets to New York and big plans for a wild weekend. Before Charlie realizes what he has gotten into, he is accompanying the colonel around Manhattan as they begin their wild adventures, which include a fast-paced test drive in a Ferrari and a tango with a beautiful woman.

Activity

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

Title: Scent of a Woman (1992)

Studio: MCA

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. What common mistake does Charlie make several times as he tries to help Frank get around?
2. Frank loses his sight completely prior to the beginning of the movie. How do you think that impacts his behavior or mood?
3. Explain the relationship between Frank's disability and his depression.
4. Imagine that you are a member of Frank's family. What would you do to prevent his depression? What additional support systems would you help him access?
5. Frank's blindness does not seem to limit his ability to do whatever he wants. Which parts of the movie show a realistic portrayal of the competencies of someone who is blind and which are Hollywood-style exaggerations?