

Visual Impairment: Scent of a Woman (Movie) Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Explore how individuals with a visual impairment are sometimes portrayed in media.

Synopsis

To earn extra money over the Thanksgiving holiday, Charlie—a student at an exclusive preparatory school in New Hampshire—agrees to look after a blind veteran named Lt. Col. Frank Slade. Frank, a cantankerous and cynical bully, completely surprises Charlie with tickets to New York and big plans for a wild weekend.

Activity

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

Title: *Scent of a Woman* (1992)

Studio: MCA

For Your Information

To learn more about visual impairments, visit:

- [Visual Impairment, Including Blindness](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)
- [American Foundation for the Blind](#) (AFB)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. What common mistake does Charlie make several times as he tries to help Frank get around?
2. How do you think Frank's loss of sight 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.
 - a. What would you do to help prevent or mitigate his depression?
 - b. What additional support systems do you think would be beneficial?
5. Frank's blindness does not seem to limit his ability to do whatever he wants.
 - a. In your opinion, which parts of the movie realistically portray an individual who is blind?
 - b. Which parts of the movie are Hollywood-style exaggerations?