

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Miss Virginia* (2019)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 102 Minutes

**Film Genre:** Drama

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Maxime L., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** January 1, 2021

The film *Miss Virginia* is based on a true story capturing the problems with some schools in underprivileged neighborhoods. The main character in the film is Virginia Walden who is a single mother trying to provide a better education for her son, James. The first time she tries this is after James gets into a fight at school and is suspended. Virginia decides to enroll James into a private school. In order for her to afford the tuition she has to take on a second job. One of those jobs was working as a janitor for Congresswoman Lorraine Townsend. Virginia looks up to her because she believed that they shared the same beliefs about the public school system. After

coming across a document in the trash, she learns about a program in some other cities that provides taxpayer funded scholarships. She quickly understands that Congresswoman Townsend has her own agenda. After voicing her opinion at a council meeting, Virginia gets fired and needs to de-enroll James from the private school. Shortly after James returns back to his public school, Walden realizes that D.C. cannot wait any longer and something has to be done now. She believes that the schools have a lack of security and they don't teach the students well. When Virginia takes this problem to Congressman Cliff Williams he tells her that none of the parents care about what happens at school and that she won't achieve to create this type of scholarship program. This forces Virginia to work even harder. She starts off by going around town and collecting tens of hundreds of signatures for a petition so that she can take it to court. Throughout the film Virginia strives for what she believes.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?*

I found this film on Kanopy while casual browsing and thought it looked interesting.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

The plot of the movie was keeping me interested every second of the movie. I was always wondering what might happen next.

*Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The pace of this film was just right and it was easy to follow along with what was going on.

*What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?*

I found this movie to be appropriate for students above the sixth grade.

*5 stars: I'm really glad I watched this film; it was awesome!*

The film *Miss Virginia* was very intriguing and kept me on my toes wondering what was to come. It also taught a great lesson about never giving up and fighting for what you believe. For example *Miss Virginia* was told by Cliff Williams himself that nobody would care about the school system. Not only does it teach this but it also shows how the school system is broken in some places in America. Something else that kept me intrigued was the character's persistence and determination to achieve this goal of theirs.