

**Film Title and Release Date:** *Minecraft: Through the Nether Portal*  
(2017)

**Film Length:** 58 Minutes

**Film Genre:** Documentary

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Jacob W., 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** March 19, 2021

The film discusses Minecraft as a whole, how it was conceived, why it has become so popular, how it has become a tool in education, and much more. It talks about how Minecraft started as a project for fun that turned into a massive sort of industry, with thousands of copies being sold every single day. It also talks about other aspects, such as how it became so popular as a sandbox game, where you can do virtually anything in it, and they especially emphasize how it's a building game, not a destroying or killing game, though you can kill and destroy things in Minecraft, it's not really the main feature. The film talks about Minecraft YouTubers and their uploading schedules, which mostly point to that most serious YouTubers are socially stunted as they spend most of their time playing video games and making videos. It shows a couple different styles of schedules, but they have the same general theme of making videos for an entire day. The film then talks about how Mojang was bought by Microsoft, and the new directions that Microsoft could take Mojang and Minecraft, what new money making schemes could come out, such as a new update being released first on one device exclusively to increase purchases on that one platform. It comes up with various ideas for Microsoft to pursue with Minecraft, which to my knowledge, none have been done, the film was released in 2017 to give perspective. Anyway, the film discusses a lot of interesting things about Minecraft and what will happen with Minecraft moving forward, also that it hasn't peaked in popularity yet, and it still hasn't even peaked today.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy?*

I looked up Minecraft on Kanopy and this came up.

*Did the plot keep you interested? Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?*

The film is a documentary, so there isn't really a plot, so much so a subject. The subject and subtopics discussed kept me interested somewhat, I did get bored at times.

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

This film would be appropriate for 3rd grade and up.

I would rate the film as

*4 stars:* I enjoyed this film, but it had a few minor flaws that added up. The big one, a picky one, but still a flaw, is that everyone they interviewed pronounced "Mojang" with a j instead of a y. Mojang is a Swedish company, and the j is supposed to be a soft j, making a y sound. That's the major one, the minor ones are that I found myself a little bit bored with some of the interviews, the interviewees spoke sort of unintelligently, but that's just a personal problem. You have to know that I have absolutely no tolerance for strange placements of the word "like", and I was going through a phase of actively noticing people saying like, causing me to see that every single interviewee had at least one unnecessary "like" in their sentences. Anyway, if I were less sensitive to improper speech and pronunciation this film would be five stars, or at least 4.75 stars.