

Film Title and Release Date: *The African Queen* (1951)

Film Length: 106 Minutes

Film Genre: Adventure/War

Reviewer Name and Grade: Jacob W., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: March 19, 2021

The African Queen is about a guy that owns a boat and a spinster missionary traveling along a river to blow up a German ship during World War 1. The story takes place in Africa and it starts at a village where the missionaries are trying to convert native Africans to Catholicism. The missionaries are Rose and Samuel Sayer, brother and sister from England and do not get a lot of news from outside the village. They find out that war has broken out when Charlie Allnut, a Canadian, comes to drop off supplies and newspapers. Allnut is an entrepreneur working for a mining company, moving supplies up and down the Ulanga River in his boat, The African Queen. Shortly after Charlie's visit, the Germans attack the village and kick Samuel in the head. He dies shortly after out of shock.

Charlie returns to the village and finds Samuel dead and Rose alone in the village. It was burned down by the Germans. They bury Samuel and decide to go down the river to hide out for a while. While they are talking, Rose was thinking about making a torpedo to destroy a German ship named The Louisa. They go down the river, navigate rapids, do major repairs, fall in love, almost die, and then blow up the ship.

How did you find the film on Kanopy?

I found this film while browsing the catalog with my parents.

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

I thought it was a little boring at first but it got interesting as the film went on. It had some funny parts like when Charlie Allnut said he likes to kick The African Queen's engine because it gives him something to do.

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

This film would be appropriate for 6th grade and up.

I would rate the film as

4 out of 5 stars: I really enjoyed the film but the pacing was a little slow. I would have focused more on the mission of blowing up the ship instead of the journey to get there. I wanted there to be more action in it, but there wasn't. I did like the banter between the two main characters and even tolerated them falling in love. Even though there are two human leads, the African Queen could also be considered a main character too. It helped the characters tremendously throughout the story, it provided all the resources needed to survive, and in the end was the key part of the mission and completing it.