

Film Title and Release Date: *The River and the Wall* (2019)

Length of Film in Minutes: 110 Minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Ayaan C., 7th Grade

Date Reviewed: May 23, 2021

The River and the Wall follows five friends on a 1200 mile journey along the US-Mexico border from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico. They ride through horses, bicycles and padding canoes and meet with landowners, immigrants, wildlife biologists and folks on either side of the Rio to better understand where a physical border wall would go and the impact it would have. People are illegally coming from Central America and the people of the US are planning to build a wall. The film is presenting how the wall building up will impact lives on both sides, especially farmers and wildlife. Most wild animals find their food and water in Mexico. Most of the farming land in Texas gets water irrigation from Mexico for farming. As per this film building a border wall is most expensive and least effective for security. The crew that is exploring the River are finding many beautiful things that they loved to see and they talked about their families and how they immigrated from other countries. The crew were telling stories about their childhood and about their parents while they were on canoes. They take their shortcomings with a good natured, self aware chuckle because they love what they are doing and they might never get a chance to take such a trip again if the wall is completed.

How did you find the film?

By casual browsing on Kanopy.

Did the presentation of Information keep you interested?

Yes it is as it was the most controversial and talked about topic that I have ever listened to.

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

At some parts it was slow however it was just going right.

What grade level this film is appropriate?

This is most likely appropriate for 7th grade because it talks about a lot of historical events for example the immigrant system and different geographic features that were used.

Rating:

I would give this documentary 4 stars because I really enjoyed watching it and the stories that they talked about and I also liked the view in the video. Watching them explore the River was fun to watch and I would want to go there because of the view. It is sad though that it all was going to be blocked off.