

**Film Title and Release Date: W. (2008)**  
**Length of Film in Minutes: 130 Minutes**  
**Film Genre: Historical Fiction**

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Yaseen V., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Date Reviewed: June 30, 2021**

The historical fiction film, *W.*, features the untold story of George W. Bush and his unlikely journey to the White House. From the beginning of the film, it is shown how George has grown up in his congressman father's shadow. The film depicts George as a rowdy and unruly person who stays up late to party and consumes too much alcohol. This film is interesting because it shows the George W. Bush we know in a very different light. He is unable to hold a job for long, and seems to be a great disappointment to his father. After being incapable of keeping a job in an oil company and failing his attempts at major league baseball, George tries his hand at politics and runs for governor. However, Bush does poorly in the debate and loses the election. The story takes a turn in the year of 1986, when George becomes a born-again Christian who is now sober. He mends his relationship with his father and is later sworn into the office of the American presidency. The film also covers his time as President and how he made the decision to invade Iraq despite people such as Secretary of State Colin Powell stating it would destabilize the country. At the end of the film, it is shown that the war appeared to be a success, and Bush gives his infamous "Mission Accomplished" speech on an aircraft carrier. As the film comes to an end, the audience recognizes Bush's impact and how he made his mark as one of the most influential presidents in America's history.

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

I found this film on Kanopy by casually browsing through the platform.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) keep you interested?*

Yes, the plot kept me interested because the movie is based on a real President. I found that George W. Bush's road to the White House was very intriguing and different from others.

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

I believe the pace of the film was just right as the plot developed because we were able to see how George W. Bush was prior to being a President. This backstory is important and relevant to the film because we see how he grows as a character.

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

I think this film is appropriate for grades seven through twelve because it is informational and based on a real person.

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

In sum, *W.* is a very motivating and powerful film all-around. My favorite part was seeing how Bush dealt with his addiction and poor decision making and how he was able to turn things around and become the President of the United States of America. Overall, this film demonstrates how even historical figures have problems in life and how they worked hard to move past them.