

**Film Title and Release Date:** *The Defiant Ones* (1958)

**Length of Film in Minutes:** 97 minutes

**Film Genre:** Drama

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Chris C., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** January 16, 2022

*The Defiant Ones* is a classic drama made in 1958. It is the story of two men, Joker, a white man, and Noah, a black man. They are two convicts who are on the run from the deep south after their jail bus crashes. The problem is, they are chained together at the wrists and cannot break the chain. They are forced to be together and cannot separate physically, but because of the differences in the color of their skin, they hate each other and are mentally separated. They are pursued by a posse and bloodhounds and in order to survive, they must work together. How the film handles the transformation of these characters' feelings for each other is amazing. They first have to compromise on which direction they will go in, because Noah refuses to go south where he will face discrimination. Then they physically have to run in sync together so that they can move as fast as possible. When they try to get out of a clay pit, they agree to work together by having Joker climb on top of Noah's shoulders. When Joker reaches the top, he then pulls Noah up. In other scenes like this, the viewer starts to see the two men working together as they begin to rely on each other and realize their skin color is unimportant. At the end of the movie, they each put their own lives on the line for the other. When Joker realizes Noah is sure to die in the swamp, he leaves his plan for escape to go save him. In the final scene, when Noah is grasping for Joker's hand to lift him onto the rail car, rather than let go and escape on his own, he falls off the train and into a ditch where both he and Joker are caught by the law.

*How did you find the film on Kanopy?*

I found it through casual browsing and recommendation

*Did the plot keep you interested?*

Yes, it did keep me interested because I wanted to see how these men's relationship would evolve.

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

The pace was just right. I was not bored and each scene kept me wanting to watch more to find out what would happen next.

*What grade level is this film appropriate for?*

This film is appropriate for middle school through adulthood.

*I rate this film 5 stars.*

I'm really glad I watched this film because it showed that no matter what the color of your skin is, we all need to work together to survive in this world.