

**Title and Release Date:** *Loving Vincent* (2017)

**Length:** 95 minutes

**Genre:** Biographical Drama

**Reviewer Name and Grade:** Melissa W., 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Date Reviewed:** April 17, 2021

Loving Vincent is about Armand Roulin, a man in France the summer of 1891, who was told by his father to deliver a letter that was found from the artist Vincent van Gogh, addressed to his brother, Theo van Gogh. Vincent had recently killed himself and they thought Theo should get the last letter written from him. At first Armand was reluctant, not caring about whether or not the letter was delivered. But when he found out Theo had also died shortly after Vincent, Armand felt that somebody had to receive the letter. He traveled to the town of Auvers-sur-Oise after someone told him he could try speaking to Dr. Paul Gachet, who was a friend of Vincent. When he got there, Dr. Gachet was not in town, but Louise Chevalier, the housekeeper, said Vincent was a strange and evil man. Armand stayed at the same inn that Vincent did and talked with the kind temporary proprietress, Adeline Ravoux. She said she knew him as a kind quiet man who spent every day painting. As he talked to a few more people, including Dr. Gachet when he returned, he heard many different stories and opinions of Vincent. Armand then found lots of evidence suggesting that this was a murder instead of a suicide, and so he tried to find out who killed Vincent. This story is only partly historically correct, Van Gogh's death being proven a suicide, but here it is dramatized for the cinematic suspense.

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

I found the film casually browsing, it was under the category Oscar Winners and Nominees.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

Yes, the plot was very interesting, it went from trying to just find someone, to trying to solve a murder, and I really like murder mysteries.

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

I think it was just right. I found it very easy to keep up with everything that was happening, all the new characters and details.

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

I think it's appropriate for 6th grade and up. There's only a few scenes and use of language that may be slightly inappropriate for younger children, and the the topics of death, suicide, and murder might be scary for some people . Blood is shown on screen a few times, such as Vincent's cut off ear and his gunshot wound.

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

This film was absolutely amazing, the painted style of the animation was incredible. The plot was great too. But I still don't know who killed Vincent. I'm not sure if that was intentional to not include that, or maybe I just didn't get it. But the way the movie ended, I'm kind of okay with not knowing.

**Reviewer Name and Grade: Wendy T., 8th grade**

**Date Reviewed: March 23, 2022**

*Loving Vincent* is a film about Vincent van Gogh's mysterious death. The film is the first fully hand painted movie, and is also painted in the style of Vincent's paintings. The film follows a man named Armand Roulin, who is delivering the last letter Vincent wrote to his brother, Theo. Armand is delivering the letter because his father was a friend of Vincent's. Despite this, Armand despises Vincent because he was ill. Throughout the film, the characters tell Armand how terrible Vincent's life was. The whole town was against him because they thought he was insane. As Armand realizes how important the letter must be to Theo, he sets out to deliver it to him. Along the way, he meets Vincent's paint seller. Armand asks him where Theo might be, but he comes to learn that Theo had killed himself after he learned of Vincent's passing. After this, the man tells Armand that he could deliver the letter to Dr. Gachet, Vincent's doctor, as they were very close and were often mistaken as family. After traveling to the Gachet household, Armand is told that he will have to wait a day for the doctor to meet with him. After this, Armand goes to the Ravoux hotel. There, he meets a woman named Adeline. Roulin asks her some questions about Vincent, and she mentions that he used to stay there. In fact, one day she saw him walking with a bullet in his stomach, and that he said he had tried to kill himself. Dr. Gachet had gone to treat him, but even though he was an ex-military doctor, he didn't remove the bullet. Instead, he simply said it was hopeless. Armand talks with other people trying to uncover the mystery of Vincent's death. Eventually his meeting with Dr. Gachet arrives. It is revealed that Theo spent a lot of money on Vincent, whether it be painting supplies, health expenses, etc. Vincent felt as though he was a burden on his brother. While in an argument with him, Dr. Gachet had told him that the stress of Vincent's health was killing Theo, and that this was the price of him being an artist. Dr. Gachet thinks this is what led Vincent to end his own life; to save Theo from succumbing to the same fate.

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

I found this film while looking at the home page.

*Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?*

Yes, the plot was very interesting! It was entertaining to watch as Armand talked to different people and learned things about Vincent and his death.

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

I thought the pace of the film was just right.

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

I think anyone in or above 8th grade can watch this film.

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

I really liked this movie. I loved how everything was painted to match van Gogh's art style! Sometimes, the scenes looked so good that I thought they were real. I also liked how Armand started out as hating Vincent, but as he learned more about him, he started to feel sympathy towards him. I recommend this film if you like art, or are just interested in van Gogh!