

Film Title and Release Date: *Notes on Blindness* (2016)
Length of Film in Minutes: 91 minutes
Film Genre: Documentary

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

Date Reviewed: March 24, 2022

Notes on Blindness is a documentary about John Hull and the documentation of his life after he became blind in 1983. He would keep track of this on cassette tapes, and kept this up for 3 years. Over those years, he would produce over 16 hours of material. His recordings tell of loss, rebirth, renewal, and how the world was like in total darkness. Hull had previously gone blind in one eye because of a surgery, so when he started going blind in the other eye, he was completely devastated. The film is told from Hull's perspective, switching between voiceovers and his own tape recordings. He tells of his journey through blindness, telling both happy stories and sad ones. I believe that this documentary is successful in teaching viewers of Hull's story. As you watch the film, you can feel the immense amount of sorrow and joy this man has felt. The documentarians also provide the pros and cons of being blind. Hull felt a sense of hopelessness, as he was starting to forget his memories of when he could still see. The pictures became blurry, and he didn't even know what one of his kids looked like. On the other hand, Hull also learned how to overcome this, as it filled him with determination to succeed.

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

I found this film while browsing.

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

Yes! The cinematography was stunning, and the story of John Hull was very interesting.

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

I thought the pacing was just right.

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

I think this film is appropriate for anyone in or above 7th grade.

4 stars: I enjoyed this film and found it worthwhile to watch.

I rate this film 4 stars because I thought it was very entertaining and the cinematography was beautiful. In fact, this almost made me cry. As you watch the film, you're put into Hull's shoes. You can feel the emotion that he felt, and the inclusion of his own tape recordings was a nice touch. I thought this documentary was fantastic.