

Film Title and Release Date: *The Library that Dolly Built* (2020)

Length of Film in Minutes: 78

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Sarina P., 11th Grade

Date Reviewed: January 7, 2023

This is a documentary about country singer Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which is a resource dedicated to delivering free picture books to children from birth to their fifth birthday. The library delivers more than 1 million books per month in all 50 states of the US and globally, including braille versions. It began in her home city in Tennessee and kept growing. She hoped that this program would make children excited to learn about reading and inspire their education.

Before this, she had tried other charity work to support education, such as starting a buddy program that she developed to give \$500 to any student who graduated from high school in Sevier County, Tennessee to address high dropout rates. She also provided college scholarships.

For the Imagination Library, she hired a full staff to select books appropriate for each age group, pack and ship the books, and she partnered with Penguin Random House to get discounted books and the postal service to get discounted postage rates. Their goal is to send books to 10 percent of all children from age birth to 5 in the US, and they're close to that goal.

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

By browsing documentaries.

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

Yes.

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

It was a little slow.

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

There's nothing inappropriate, but it would probably be most interesting to students in 5th grade and up.

Rating 3 Stars

I think it was a good subject to be made into a film because Dolly Parton's accomplishments deserve to be recognized. I did feel that the film dragged on a little bit because it would occasionally go on tangents about the importance of reading in general that I thought were too long. Overall, it was still an engaging film and it's inspiring that Dolly Parton shows so much passion for reading.