

Outline for a Book or Film Report

I. The Image of the Deaf (Types of Characters)

Which characters portray deaf people? Identify each.

1. Are they stereotypes used merely for the purpose of humor, pity, novelty or the "grotesque" (i.e., to shock the reader and/or provide "a new thrill")?
2. Are they realistic characters (life-like deaf people) who play a major role?
3. Are they symbolic characters used to illustrate experiences that are common to all people?

II. The Function of Deaf Characters

What is the role or purpose of the deaf character(s) in the story?

1. Are they non-functional (i.e., merely "stereotypes")? Explain.
2. Do they help to shape the plot or action? Explain.
3. If the deaf character is the protagonist (leading character), what conflict or problem does he/she face? How does he/she overcome the problem?
4. Does the deaf character help us understand the theme, the main idea, or the message of the book or film? If so, how?

III. The Deaf Experience

How real or believable is the deaf character (or characters)?

1. What special experiences of the deaf did you find (i.e., behaviors, customs, feelings, attitudes, etc.)?
2. Can you relate to the experience of the deaf character(s)? Compare your own experiences of being deaf.
3. Does the author (or film) use "the deaf experience" to symbolize the experience of non-deaf people also (i.e., feelings, attitudes, etc., which are common to all people)?

IV. Comment and Evaluation

Comment on your own opinion of the book or film.

1. What features did you especially appreciate and enjoy?
2. What did you dislike or find fault with?
3. Would you recommend it for others to read or view? Explain.