

Learning
enabled

Seven students
Seven stories

3

Jessie

Hearing Impairment



Synopsis:

This film tells the story of Jessie, a deaf student. We begin with a scene from her home life, where she is clearly able to communicate with her family and friends. In college, it is not always so straightforward. At a seminar, her lecturer turns away from her sometimes to write on the board. She cannot lipread when this happens, and does not 'hear' the question he is asking her. It's easy for a lecturer to forget that she is lip-reading, and he sometimes holds up a document or other item that obscures her view. She goes to visit the Disabilities Officer, who advises her on the steps they can take to help out. Next time, things are much better: she has a note-taker to help in class, and her lecturer is now aware of the need to face her when speaking.

Two minute free-write:

- What is your immediate response to this story? What questions do you have about this story?

Questions for group discussion:

- You have had a short time to reflect in free-writing for two minutes. If you have a question following the two-minute free-write, can we share those questions?
- Have you taught a student with a hearing impairment before? Were you aware of the impairment from the outset, or were you contacted by your Disabilities Officer?
- What accommodations would you need to make for a hearing-impaired student in your classes?
- In your institution, can you access the supports for deaf students that were highlighted in this story?
- Would you consider the accommodations that are made for Jessie to be 'reasonable'?
- Do you think this story was true to life?

Finding out more:

- You can find out more about this topic at the AHEAD website, <http://www.ahead.ie>
- If you have never taught or supervised a student with a hearing impairment, do you know who to talk to in your own department or organisation about supporting hearing impaired students?
- What information has your institution provided to help you?