

Activity Idea

DECEMBER 2022 LGBTQ+ VIRTUAL FILM FEST:

The Way He Looks Viewer's Guide

Rating: Not rated

Parental guidance suggested. Recommended for ages 15 and up.

Leonardo is a blind teenager searching for independence. His everyday list, the relationship with his best friend, Giovana, and the way he sees the world change completely with the arrival of Gabriel.

Stream the film here on Kanopy: <https://www.kanopy.com/en/lacounty/video/4793451>

MOVIE RESOURCES:

- “‘The Way He Looks’ Review: Brazil’s Oscar Entry a Sweet and Dramatic Coming-of-Age Tale” from *The Wrap*: <https://tinyurl.com/ymu8m4th>
- Interview with director Daniel Ribiero at the BFI London Film Festival: <https://vimeo.com/108999853>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How is intimacy portrayed throughout the film? How does blindness contribute to the intimacy between characters?
- Music is an underlying theme in *The Way He Looks*. Leo listens solely to classical music before Gabriel introduces him to Belle and Sebastian. How do the types of music reflect the characters? How does music function within the film and the plot?
- The film is a typical coming of age story where we see characters trying to find themselves in the world and forge independence from their parents. What does each character hope to find in their coming-of-age process? How does Leo’s coming out factor into the theme?
- Why do you think Gio had the reaction she did when Leo told her he was in love with Gabriel? How does she make it up to him after coming to terms with his news?



- Gabriel claims he was too drunk at the party to remember kissing Leo but isn't drunk enough at the camp. Blacking out in a sense can be a form of mental blindness. How does Gabriel and Leo come to terms with their feelings?
- The movie came out one year after Brazil legalized gay marriage. Gay marriage is a new concept for the country, how is that represented in the interactions between Leo and Fabian, who represents the ideal masculinity and verbalizes that rhetoric?