

# Community Film Workshop Series

## Tonight's Session: Mary and Max

Connection, Isolation, and the Threads Between Us

Part of Sentient Meat's monthly educational workshop series exploring the art of film, all attendees tonight are participating as **Student Members** under our nonprofit's educational program. We're glad you're here!

### Workshop Overview




We'll watch *Mary and Max* and reflect together on:

- How friendship forms across distance and difference
- The realities of neurodivergence, mental health, and social misunderstanding
- What honest connection can teach us about community care

#### Session Goals

- Explore themes of loneliness, belonging, and chosen family
- Discuss how neurodivergence shapes communication and perception
- Consider how communities support (or fail) people who fall outside social norms

### Session Schedule

Time	Activity
6:00–6:50 PM	 Doors open, Student Member sign-in, tea/snack break
7:00–8:30 PM	 Film screening
8:30–9:30 PM	 Group discussion + reflection

### Guided Discussion Prompts

#### Opening Reflection

- What emotions surfaced most strongly?
- Did you see yourself or someone you love in either character?

#### Connection Across Distance

- What sustains the friendship between Mary and Max despite time, age, and geography?
- How do letters (or other slow forms of communication) create a different kind of intimacy?

#### Neurodivergence and Understanding

- How does Max's autistic perspective help illuminate misunderstandings in everyday communication?
- What barriers keep neurodivergent people from being understood, supported, or believed?

#### Mental Health and Survival

- Where do you see resilience in the film?
- How do Mary and Max cope with isolation, stigma, or family trauma in different ways?

- What responsibility does a community have to support people who are struggling?

## Optional Reflection Prompt

If you'd like to share your thoughts with our community:

- Write about a connection that changed you, even if the relationship was imperfect or difficult.
- Create a sketch, collage, or short piece of writing about communication across distance or difference.



## Community Care and Rural Parallels

- What lessons about connection and support might apply to rural life and small communities?
- How can we make space for people who communicate or move through the world differently?
- Where do you see opportunities for local mutual aid or creative companionship?

## Student Agreement

All student members must sign in before the screening. Your participation is your acknowledgment of the Safer Spaces Policy and Student Membership terms.

You may indicate agreement via:

- ☒ Checking the box on the sign-in form
-  Adding a signature or initials
-  Typing your name on a digital or printed form

### Safer Spaces Policy

By participating in this event, you agree to:

- Respect everyone's identity and lived experience
- Listen actively and avoid speaking over others
- Engage with openness, not judgment
- Use content warnings for potentially triggering topics
- Ask for consent before physical contact or intense conversation

If someone makes a request for space, change of topic, or support, we ask you to honor it.

Facilitators are here to support a safe and inclusive environment. You can speak with us at any time if something feels off.

### Student Membership Terms

By attending as a Student Member, you agree to:

- Participate in the discussion as part of your educational session
- Sign in and confirm your participation
- Uphold our Safer Spaces Policy during the event
- Consent to your signature being recorded via checkbox, signature line, or typed acknowledgment

This event qualifies as **in-person, instructor-led education** under Ohio Revised Code § 5739.01(B)(3)(q). Your attendance is part of a **nonprofit educational program**, not a ticketed performance.