

LIFE IS
A JOURNEY

→ KEEP GOING



1 BEFORE WATCHING

Set the stage and open hearts and minds.

- What assumptions do people often make when they meet someone whose behavior seems unusual?
- What does it mean to know about a person versus truly know a person?

INSTITUTIONAL FILE

- ☐ DIAGNOSIS
- ☐ BEHAVIOR
- ☐ COMPLIANCE
- ☐ RECORD

PERSON

ONE MILE
AT A TIME



2 WHILE WATCHING

Pay attention to misunderstanding, pattern, and relationship.

- How does Charlie first see Raymond, and how does that change over time?
- What role do institutions play in shaping Raymond's life?
- When does ability become visible before personhood?



4 TRY THIS

A small step toward deeper recognition.

- Think of someone you tend to define too quickly. What else might be true about them?
- Practice slowing down and noticing one strength, one need, and one piece of history in someone close to you.
- Talk about the difference between fascination, care, and respect.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF RAIN MAN

Autism, Institutional Histories, and the Recognition That Comes Too Late

Use this guide to reflect on autism, family estrangement, institutional histories, and what it means to truly recognize another person.

LUCK



3 AFTER WATCHING

Reflect together and make meaning.

- What losses shaped both brothers long before the road trip began?
- What does Charlie begin to understand that he could not see at first?
- Why does recognition matter even when lost time cannot be recovered?

SAME ROAD
OLD PATTERNS

NEW ROAD
NEW UNDERSTANDING

DR. Z
TAKEAWAY

Recognition is
not just noticing
someone's abilities.
It is seeing their
humanity, their
history, and the
person behind the
diagnosis.



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Understanding minds.



Strengthening connections.