The movie *Temple Grandin* is based on the true story of a girl with autism, played by Claire Danes. At a young age, Temple visits a doctor and he diagnoses her autism, says she will never be able to speak, and suggests she be institutionalized. However, her mother is determined to help her daughter and eventually Temple learns to speak. Temple attends Hampshire Country School where she faces obstacles but prevails. The challenges she faces include teasing from other students, difficulty understanding the material in classes, and she becomes easily upset and stressed. However, she is able to persevere through the encouragement from her mother and teacher, Dr. Carlock. He takes special interest in Temple and inspires her to go to college. Temple’s autism makes it difficult for her to socialize with others at the school. In addition, she does not like physical affection from people. However, she is an extremely smart girl who loves math, science, and animals. She proves her intelligence when she fixes her aunt’s fence by making it more efficient. In addition, she is able to classify and organize items, like spoons when she cleans dishes with her aunt. She is very observant and notices little noises like the fan spinning, marker squeaking, or a pen clicking. While working on the farm, Temple observes the cows and the “squeezing machine” they are put into. She realizes that they are suddenly calmed in the tight space. While in college she builds her own machine and finds that is very relaxing and comforting. The school forces Temple to remove it from her room, but eventually she is able to return it to her room. She then constructs her own scientific study on her “squeeze machine” and students’ responses to it. In addition, Temple receives a new room mate who is blind and they build a very close bond. Temple graduates from college and begins working as a rancher. She then alters the dip and slaughterhouse procedure to make it more effective and
humane for cattle. Temple writes multiple articles in newspapers and magazines and becomes very successful.

I really loved this movie *Temple Grandin* because I learned so much about autism and saw life through her eyes. Temple’s disability could be viewed as an extreme drawback. However, her autism gave her wonderful gifts and intelligence, like her photographic memory. Dr. Carlock discovers her amazing talent because he takes a special interest in Temple. He is not only Temple’s teacher but also cares for her. They trust each other and build a relationship. He provides her with opportunities to show her knowledge through project-based learning. He shows the class a video on optical illusions and leaves them with the open-ended question, how did they do it? He also tells Temple that he will give her extra credit if she builds a model. She accomplishes the assignment Dr. Carlock gives her, again proving her intelligence. He believes in her by saying she is “different, not less”. The models Temple builds and her photographic memory prove that she is a visual learner. While some teachers do not meet Temple’s needs, Dr. Carlock makes a huge effort to help her. In addition, the college makes accommodations for Temple by allowing her to keep the “squeeze machine” in her room. Overall, his movie gave me a whole new perspective about people with special needs as I saw life through Temple’s eyes.