loving a predetermined path or committed for remaining true to ideas they have nurtured for years? These questions, and many others raised by 35 Up, are as intriguing as they are unanswerable.

The format of 35 Up should come under some scrutiny of its own. Do the experiment's subjects behave differently in front of the camera each time? Or even more importantly, do they live their lives in a way that is in some way influenced by the notion that Apted will show up sooner or later to check up on their progress? In his latest interview, one of the participants and his wife claim that the project does make them reflect back on their past when contemplating the future, and even their present. Bruce admits that he sees the film as being about opportunities and the necessity of using them with a sense of urgency - like this scene in the second generation which John visits, comparisons are drawn between the backgrounds of these teenagers in the Bangladesh schools where Bruce teaches and those in a Belgian hospital which John visits. Comparisons are drawn between the backgrounds of these young people and the backgrounds of the lives examined in the film. Will the children of these less fortunate nations have the chance to develop to their potential, as most of the 35 Up group hoped?

This childhood theme climaxes in the documentary's transcendent concluding study of Neil. When he was a boy, Neil thought that he would be an astronaut or a coach driver. The most important thing to the young boy was to travel, and as a homeless adult at age twenty-three, he was travelling aimlessly across Britain. At 28, he has temporarily settled down in an isolated apartment complex, but he is still a disturbed and depressed individual. When asked if he would like to have children, Neil answers that he would never find a woman that could cope with his demanding personality. Neil also says that even if he did eventually marry, he would still be afraid to have children, afraid to have unhappy kids, afraid that children inherit these things from their parents. This has been especially important in the children's decisions. John also says, "You're getting on a bit. Are you a bit worried?"

The latest in a series of documentaries, 35 Up explores the joys, fears, and hopes of growing up.

**The Best of Mountain Stage**

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