“The Race to The Double Helix” is the story of Francis Crick and James Watson. Crick and Watson were partners studying at Cambridge University. The year is 1953, during this time many scientists were racing to discover what we would know now as DNA. Watson and Crick were the first to discover the shape of dna, as well as base pairs. They then bust into their favorite pub and announce they had discovered the secret of life, but before this happened there were many trials and tribulations along the way, as well as contributions from other scientists. The most notable being Ms. Rosalind Franklin. We are shown these trials and tribulations as well as how Watson and Crick met and grew as partners and friends.

Watson and Crick both had a compelling drive to discover DNA, which is mainly what they bonded over. They worked alongside Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin. There are many things this film conveys well, one being the intuitive leaps that Watson and Crick often took. The second being the issues they faced such as personality clashes, turf wars, as well as sexism on Ms. Franklin’s end, an issue still prevalent in science today. This film also highlights the loneliness and isolation that comes with scientific research. The movie is split into something like chapters, different events have different title screens before they are shown, which makes it easy to follow as the transition is smooth.

Watson and Crick depicted that DNA was antiparallel prior to constructing their model of DNA structure from cardboard. They made the discovery while they were drawing on a whiteboard that they were only drawing one half of the structure, and that if they continued that way that they would eventually run out of strands. In order to prevent that one must be running in the opposite way.

Before watching this movie, I knew very little about the discovery of DNA, or Watson and Crick for that matter. I was unaware that there was a race to see who could discover DNA first. However, I was aware that DNA has a double helix and that it was antiparallel. I also knew that DNA contained base pairs. Unfortunately, prior to seeing this film I assumed the discovery of DNA was made by men alone. This film taught me many things in many different aspects. The first being that a woman played a critical part in the discovery of DNA. It was Rosalind’s x-rays that helped Watson and Crick to make their discovery. I also learned that Watson and Crick discovered the base pairs.

Altogether, the movie “The Race to The Double Helix” is an informational drama that highlights many different aspects of being a scientist. It taught me about the discovery of DNA that plays a vital role in todays society in areas not only related to microbiology, but also criminal justice, as DNA can play a huge role in the capturing of criminals. It also taught me about Rosalind Franklin’s roll, an important part of the story as women don’t receive half as much credit for their contributions. The film made learning this part of history interesting and informative.