

3.5 Film Review

Ice Breakers

- Read the following conversation and complete the activity given below.

(i) Choose the correct alternative from the following-
From one star given to the movie we conclude that-

- (a) The movie is very short.
- (b) The movie is not worth watching.
- (c) The movie is serious.
- (d) The movie is in black and white.

Ans. The movie is not worth watching

(ii) Discuss with your teacher how/why are 'stars' given to a movie.

Ans. (Points: stars- symbols for ratings - gives quick idea of quality of film- the more the stars, better the film - awakens curiosity - can read review at leisure - rating depends on storyline, acting, location, music, etc.)

(iii) The word 'Review' is different from summarizing and appeal writing. Choose the correct statements of the following.

- (a) A film review is an expression of your personal views towards a particular film, documentary or movie.
- (b) A film review gives you an opportunity to express opinions about the movie, including its characters, plot and background.
- (c) A film review gives appealing sentences that make your reader curious or anxious about the film.
- (d) A review means explanation of each and every event of the film.

Ans. (a) Film review is an expression of your personal views towards a particular film, documentary or movie.

(b) A film review gives you an opportunity to express opinions about the movie, including its characters, plot and background.

BRAINSTORMING

(A1) (i) Every movie is worth critiquing. Describe in detail each point related with the film review with the help of the following web.

Ans. a. Plot Analysis: Plot analysis includes assessing the plot of the film, its characters, and events in detail. It can be a time-consuming activity and should be done with great precision.

b. Characterization: Characterization is a process in which the writer describes different characters in the film.

This process consists of two types: • Direct characterization

Indirect characterization

Direct Characterization tells the audience about the personality of the characters in the film. On the other hand, indirect characterization describes the characteristics of a character. E.g. the way they talk, react, or respond to situations.

c. Cinematography: Cinematography is the art of photography and camera work involved in film making. A film reviewer can add important observations regarding the cinematography of the film to make the review more elaborative and descriptive.

d. The Genre: A film genre is a motion picture category based on the film narrative elements or emotional elements in the movie. Some common film genres are romantic, comedy, tragic, horror, and action.

e. Script Writer: Scriptwriters are also known as scenarists and are responsible for drafting the storyline of a movie. They also plot events and characters for a film.

f. Acting: Acting is the face of any movie.

The acting skills of the characters in the film determine the excellence of the movie. Reviewers often build their first impressions of a movie based upon the acting.

g. Direction: A director leads the entire team that works on a movie. He/she takes care of every single detail right from the script, casting, performance, editing, technical provisions as well as the post production. Only an able direction can make a movie successful and gain good reviews from critiques.

h. Music and sound: Music and sound effects play a crucial role in making a movie engaging for the viewers. Apart from the visuals, music has a far-reaching impact on the audience. Reviewers critically analyse the quality and impact of music in a film and rate the movie accordingly.

(ii) Discuss and explain the movie "The Jungle Book" with the help of the following points.

- **Classic element**

Ans. 'Classic' means judged over a period of time to be of the highest quality and outstanding of its kind; excellent. The movie "The Jungle Book" is Rudyard Kipling's classic tale of a young boy brought up in the jungle by various animals. It is brought to life once again on the big screen in a wonderful way by director Jon Favreau, who weaves magic on screen.

- **Fantasy**

Ans. 'Fantasy' is a genre of imaginative fiction involving magic and adventure, especially in a setting other than the real world. In "The Jungle Book" the idea of having a main character who can talk to and live with wild animals in a jungle is pretty fantastic.

- **Photorealism**

Ans. In 'Photorealism' an artist studies a photograph and then attempts to reproduce the image as realistically as possible in another medium. In 'The Jungle Book', the boy Sethi is the only real person, and all the other animals are Computer Generated Images. The photorealism is breathtakingly original and the CGI rendering of the animals is exceptionally credible. The Jungle Book owes much of its success to ingenious CGI.

- **Blending of emotions**

Ans. Favreau infuses the film with scenes that provoke strong emotions. He has successfully managed to portray animal emotions and make the audience connect with them. The voice overs are excellent. The scenes between Mowgli and his wolf-mother, Sher Khan's hatred for Mowgli, Baloo's affection and the final David versus Goliath battle between Mowgli and Khan are extremely stirring. There is frolic and warmth between Mowgli and his wild friends, which make it very heartwarming.

(iii) 'It all builds on the charm of the 1967 film, which by itself is a must watch for any child.'

Explain this sentence in the context of the movie, focusing on the two given phrases- 'Charm of the 1967 film' and 'must watch'.

Ans. 'Charm of the 1967 film' means that the 1967 film itself was charming; this one is even more so. The key characters may be the same, but it's a delight to discover that there are a few new entrants along the way as well. 'Must watch' means that the film is not one we must miss, but must go to the theatres to watch.

(A2) (i) Complete the following sentences.

Ans. The factors that have made "The Jungle Book" a great movie are:

(a) It's a fantasy world of wonder.

(b) The photorealism is excellent.

(c) The CGI rendering of the animals is truly convincing.

(d) There is a beautiful blending of emotions.

(ii) The present review concludes with two words 'Heartwarming and enjoyable'. Write your opinion in about 100 to 150 words.

Ans. The film is a fantasy, a visual masterpiece that will entice audiences of all groups. It enthralls with its technical expertise and with its story-telling too. In 'The Jungle Book', the boy Sethi is the only real person. All the other animals are Computer Generated Images, and have a fantastic degree of photorealism, which is breathtakingly original. The CGI rendering of the animals is exceptionally credible and enjoyable. At the same time, Favreau infuses the film with scenes that provoke strong emotions. With the excellent performance of the voice cast, the director has successfully managed to portray animal emotions and make the audience connect with them. 'The Jungle Book' brims with affection and deep friendship. There is frolic and warmth between Mowgli and his wild friends, which make it very heartwarming.

(A3) (i) 'Narnia' (parts 1,2,3 and 4) is a film about four children who find a path to Narnia. Discuss in your class, the special effects and direction. Write a review with the help of the following points in about 100 to 150 words.

Ans. Points:

(a) Story line - In this 2005 fantasy film, four English children are relocated to a large, old country house following a wartime evacuation. The youngest, Lucy, visits Narnia three times via the magic of a wardrobe in a spare room. Lucy's three siblings are with her on her third visit to Narnia. In Narnia, the siblings seem fit to fulfill an old prophecy and find themselves flung into adventures to save Narnia and their own lives.

(b) Producer - co-produced by Walden Media and Walt Disney Pictures

(c) Director - Andrew Adamson

(d) Music Director - Harry Gregson - Williams.

(e) Characters - William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes and Georgie Henley play Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. The white witch is Tilda Swinton.

(f) Setting/Location - Most of the film is set in Narnia, a land of talking animals and mythical creatures, ruled by the evil White Witch. The settings and scenery are beautiful. The effects in this movie are so skillful that the animals look about as real as any of the other characters.

(g) Conflict - The conflict is between the evil White Witch and the children. It is also among the siblings.

(h) Message - The messages are those of good versus evil, betrayal and forgiveness, sibling love and courage and sacrifice.

(i) Significance of the title: A chronicle is a narrative. The film is based on one of the books by C.S Lewis; in this particular film the significant things are the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Hence the title.

• **Review of the film "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe".**

In this 2005 high fantasy film four English children are relocated to a large, old country house following a wartime evacuation. The youngest, Lucy, visits Narnia three times via the magic of a wardrobe in a spare room. Lucy's three siblings are with her on her third visit to Narnia. In Narnia, the siblings seem fit to fulfill an old prophecy and find themselves flung into adventures to save Narnia and their own lives.

The film is based on one of the books by C.S Lewis; in this particular film the significance is of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Hence the title. It has been co-produced by Walden Media and Walt Disney Pictures, is directed by Andrew Adamson, and has music by Harry Gregson-Williams. The main characters are William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Skandar Keynes and Georgie Henley, who play Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. The white witch is Tilda Swinton.

Most of the film is set in Narnia, a land of talking animals and mythical creatures.. ruled by the evil White Witch. The settings and scenery are beautiful. The effects in this movie are so skilful that the animals look about as real as any of the other characters. In the film, the conflict is between the evil White Witch and the children. It is also, to a certain extent, among the siblings. The messages are those of good versus evil, betrayal and forgiveness, sibling love and courage and sacrifice.

Narnia has been depicted beautifully, as a land of magical creatures and adventures. Among the siblings, Lucy is the most adorable, while the stand-out performance was definitely Tilda Swinton's as the White Witch. Her cold, evil gaze could freeze anyone. The amazing special effects have brought to life the Centaurs, Fauns and Gryphons. I highly recommend this film. It is based on a

kid's book, but it appeals to people from every background and age. A definite thumbs-up.

(A4) (i) Form groups and try to write a script for a short film or documentary on any topic of your choice. The script must develop properly. You can take the help of the following points:

(1) Choose a topic

(2) Central theme

(3) The beginning, the middle and the end

(4) The message

Ans. Emma, a dreamy, bubbly young girl of 23, living in the USA, wishes to travel to a foreign land. She wants to visit the cradle of the renaissance, the land of history and beauty, Europe. She expresses this wish before her friends and her mom who willingly encourages her to go on this solo voyage.

All excited about her dream trip, Emma lands up in Rome, from where she had planned to begin her trip. Walking through the quaint lanes of Rome, Emma begins to explore the city. She visits all the important historical monuments spread across, goes on a walking tour around the town, and makes new Roman friends who tell her about the rich history and heritage of their land. They also take her out for shopping and snacking on delicious local food. However, after having a blast in Rome, Emma moves to Venice where she gets robbed. The thief steals her money, belongings, and crucial documents that are required to fly back to her homeland. Panicked by this incident, Emma helplessly runs into a church to seek help.

Consequently, she meets a number of kind and generous people. She meets a woman who offers her food, a little boy who makes her smile, a young girl who offers her a place to stay and helps her with formalities to fly back to her homeland. While on her way back home, Emma wonders how life throws at us an unexpected chain of events, and there's so much to learn from all of them.

This journey to Europe teaches Emma the lesson to maintain a positive outlook towards life and not break down even in the toughest of situations. It instills in her a faith that life will indeed find its way!

(ii) Form groups and use the ICT lab of your Junior College to make a short film on the script that you have prepared. There are several softwares that can be used for editing. You can take professional help. One can upload his/her film on media like Youtube and submit the link to the subject teacher.

Ans. Do it your own

(iii) There are ample career opportunities in film making and producing films. The following professions which require different professional skills, write them accordingly.

Ans.

Professions	Professional Skills
1. Actor-Male or female	Acting, voice modulation, body language, facial expressions, etc.
2. Director	Creativity, communication skills, leadership and management, technical expertise
3. Producer	Organization, budgeting, problem-solving, communication skills
4. Music-director	Creativity, musical talent, discipline, perseverance, interpersonal skills
5. Script-writer	Creativity, mastery over language, writing ability, story-telling skills, presentation skills.
6. Lyricist	Creativity, good networking, good mastery over language, adaptability
7. Cameraman	Good technical skills, creativity, eye for details, communication skills Technical skills, management skills, creativity, good communication skills, eye for details
8. Cinematographer	Imagination, creativity, good technical drawing skills, good spatial design skills, knowledge of production
9. Set designer	Creativity, imagination, design skills, budgetary skills, organizational skills, good eye for colour and fashion.
10. Costume designer	Professional Skills

(A5) You must have heard about Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. It is India's top media institute. It plays an important role in providing talent to commercial cinema, TV and web serials. Browse the internet and find information about other institutes in India and abroad and write it in your notebook.

Ans. Do it your own