**Writing a book/film review**

Follow these steps to write a book or film review.

**Pre writing**

Remember and take notes of the plot of the story. What impression did it produce on you?

**Writing**

* **Introduction:** give the title and author of the book. If you're reviewing a film mention the director or actors.
* **Body:**   
  1. Summarize the plot in a few sentences.  
  2. Mention the setting: the place and time of the plot.  
  3. Say something about the main characters.  
  4. Say something about the content.
* **Conclusion:**1. Ccomment on the book or film.   
  2. Let others know whether or not you liked the book/film.   
  3. Why do you like it? Why don't you like it?  
  4. Is the author's style good or bad, is the book / film interesting or boring etc.  
  5. Do you want to recommend the book/film?

**Useful Expressions:**

**Title, Author / Director, Actors**

The film is directed by  
The film is produced by..  
The book is written by ...

**Setting**

The action takes place in ... (setting)  
The action of the film is set in ...  
The story takes place in...

**Characters and Plot**

The main characters are ...  
The story is about ....  
The novel tells the story of ...  
In the course of the novel the action develops dramatically.  
The novel / film begins with...   
The novel has an unexpected ending.  
The end of ... is ...

**Reaction**

I am impressed by   
I think ....   
The book is terribly / beautifully written  
The film is terrible / exciting.  
What surprised me is ...  
What I liked is...  
What I didn't like is...   
I liked/didn't like the film / novel because ...

**The first paragraph** of a movie review usually includes the following elements

A short summary of the movie including its genre.

Information about the director and important stars.

A comparison to a similar movie - for example a sequel, other movies by the same director or with the same actor.

**The second paragraph** of a movie review is usually a short summary of the plot of the movie. This can be quite challenging. While you need to summarize everything in the movie within a few lines, you also have to be careful not to give away too much about what happens at the end of the movie.

**The third and final paragraph** of a movie review usually has your overall opinion of the movie. Some parts may get a favourable review - perhaps the acting - while other parts will be criticised - perhaps the plot. The summary should then end with a clear recommendation - to see or not see the movie.

Vocabulary

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| |  | | --- | | ***Movie review vocabulary***    Movie reviews include different elements of the movie including:   * Director – the person who directed the movie * Rating – Star Ratings1-5 number of stars, 5 stars is the best review * Starring – the names of the actors in the movie * Producer – the person/company that produced the movie * Based on – used when a movie is based on a book | |
| |  | | --- | | ***Movie genres***   * Action/Adventure – fighting, chases, explosions, and fast scenes * Animation – computer-animated or hand drawn characters * Comedy – funny, funny, and more funny * Documentary – story about someone or something that actually took place in history * Drama – emotionally charged personal challenges * Foreign – any movie not in English * Horror/Thriller/Suspense/Mystery – dark, scary and bloody scenes * Kids/Family – fun for the whole family * Romance – a love story * Sci-Fiction/Fantasy – not a true story, but based on make-believe, full of imaginative ideas and special effects * Musical – story told with song and dance | |
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### Useful Adjectives for Describing Movies: Here is a list of vocabulary that reviewers often use when describing movies.  They are divided into two categories, positive and negative.

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| Positive: | insightful | clever |
| charming | comical | charismatic |
| enjoyable | uproarious | original |
| tender | hilarious | absorbing |
| sensitive | riveting | intriguing |
| powerful | fascinating | pleasant |
| surprising | dazzling | thought provoking |
| imaginative | legendary | First-rate |

**Useful expressions**

**blood-curdling scenes**

**mind-blowing plots**

**keeps you on the edge of your seat**

**hair-raising stunts**

**heart-rending plot**

**feet-tapping music**

**captivating scenery**

**engrossing plot**

**eyes glued to the screen**