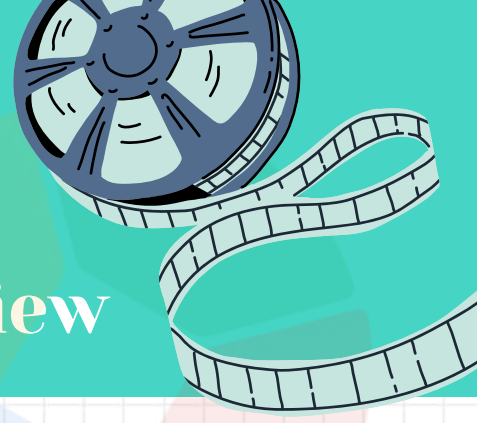


SELECTIVE WRITING GUIDE

How to Write a Movie Review



1. Introduction to Movie Reviews

A movie review is a critical evaluation of a film that informs readers about the movie's content, quality, and worth. Unlike a simple summary, a movie review offers an opinion supported by specific examples from the film. As a Year 6 student preparing for selective tests, mastering the art of movie review writing will enhance your critical thinking, analytical skills, and ability to express opinions effectively.

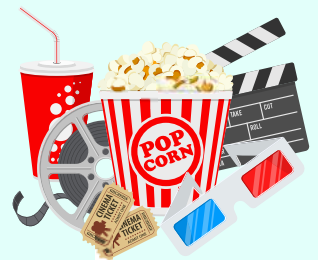


Movie reviews can be found in newspapers, magazines, online publications, and dedicated film review websites. They serve multiple purposes:

- To inform potential viewers about a film's content and quality
- To analyse the various elements of filmmaking
- To contribute to broader discussions about cinema and culture
- To recommend (or warn against) watching a particular film

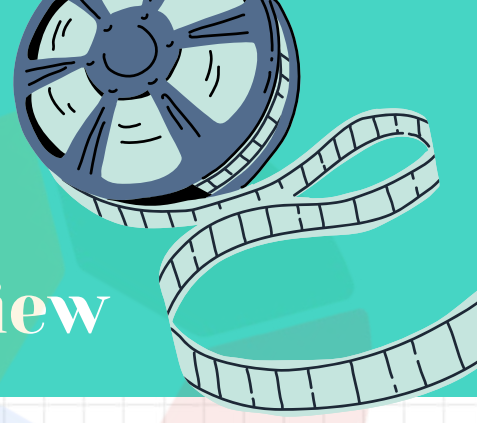
Types of Movie Reviews:

- Professional critiques: In-depth analyses by film critics
- Consumer reviews: Brief opinions shared by general moviegoers
- Academic reviews: Scholarly examinations of films' artistic or cultural significance
- Comparative reviews: Evaluations that contrast multiple films
- Retrospective reviews: Reassessments of older films from a modern perspective



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2. Structure of a Movie Review

While movie reviews can vary in style and tone, they typically include the following elements:

a) Title:

An engaging headline that captures the essence of your review.

Examples:

1. "*Interstellar*: A Mind-Bending Journey Through Space and Time"
2. "*Toy Story 4*: Pixar's Heart-warming Farewell to Childhood"
3. "*Black Panther*: A Revolutionary Superhero Saga"
4. "*La La Land*: A Dazzling Love Letter to Hollywood Dreamers"
5. "*The Grand Budapest Hotel*: Wes Anderson's Whimsical Masterpiece"

b) By-line:

The reviewer's name.

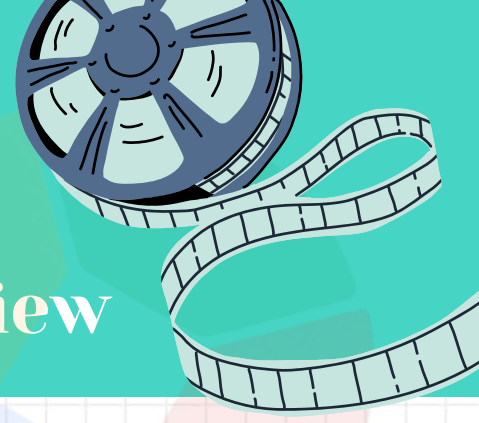
Examples:

1. By Emma Thompson
2. Review by Alex Chen
3. Critique by Olivia Martinez
4. Film Analysis by Ethan Wong
5. Cinematic Insights from Sophia Patel



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2. Structure of a Movie Review

c) Introduction:

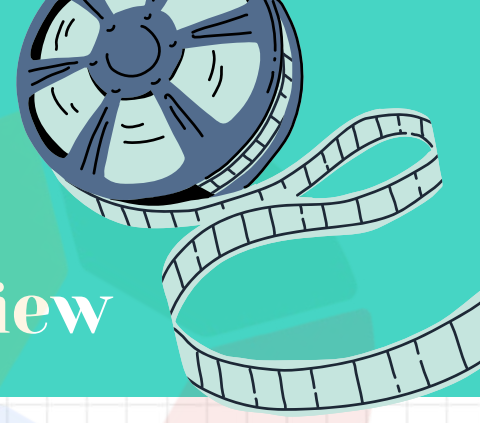
A brief overview that sets the tone and introduces the film.

Examples:

1. "In a world where superhero films dominate the box office, '*The Incredibles 2*' proves that Pixar still reigns supreme in crafting animated adventures that captivate both children and adults alike."
2. "Christopher Nolan's '*Dunkirk*' plunges viewers into the heart of one of World War II's most harrowing evacuations, delivering a visceral experience that redefines the war film genre."
3. "With '*Parasite*,' director Bong Joon-ho weaves a darkly comedic tale of class struggle that keeps audiences on the edge of their seats from start to finish."
4. "Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling light up the screen in '*La La Land*,' a magical musical that pays homage to Hollywood's golden age while carving out its own unique place in cinema history."
5. "In '*Get Out*,' Jordan Peele masterfully blends horror and social commentary, creating a thought-provoking thriller that will leave viewers discussing its themes long after the credits roll."

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2. Structure of a Movie Review

d) Brief Plot Summary:

A concise overview of the story without spoilers.

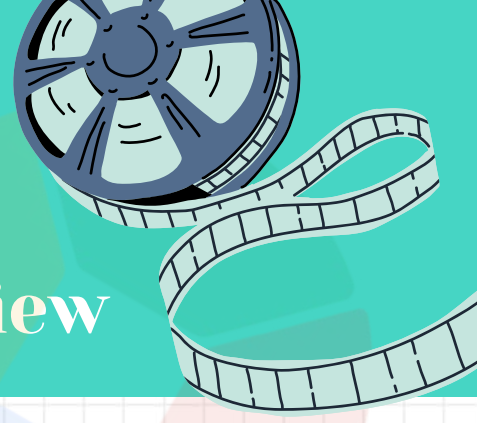


Examples:

1. "Set in a dystopian future, '*The Hunger Games*' follows Katniss Everdeen as she volunteers to take her sister's place in a televised battle to the death."
2. "In '*Inside Out*,' we journey into the mind of 11-year-old Riley, where her emotions - Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust - navigate the challenges of moving to a new city."
3. "'*The Shape of Water*' tells the unlikely love story between a mute janitor and an amphibious creature held captive in a secret government laboratory."
4. "'*Coco*' follows young Miguel's accidental journey into the Land of the Dead, where he seeks his great-great-grandfather's blessing to pursue his love of music."
5. "In '*The Grand Budapest Hotel*,' a lobby boy becomes the trusted protégé of a legendary concierge at a famous European hotel between the wars."

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How to Write a Movie Review



2. Structure of a Movie Review

e) Analysis:

The main body of the review, which may include:

- Evaluation of acting performances
- Discussion of directorial choices
- Commentary on cinematography, music, and special effects
- Exploration of themes and messages
- Comparison to other films in the genre or by the same director



f) Conclusion:

A summary of your overall opinion and recommendation.

Examples:

1. "While '*Avengers: Endgame*' occasionally buckles under the weight of its ambitious narrative, it ultimately delivers a satisfying and emotional conclusion to Marvel's epic saga."
2. "Despite its visual splendour, '*Avatar*' relies too heavily on familiar storytelling tropes, resulting in a somewhat hollow spectacle."
3. "'*Lady Bird*' captures the bittersweet essence of adolescence with remarkable authenticity, marking Greta Gerwig as a directorial force to be reckoned with."
4. "Though '*Inception*' may leave some viewers puzzled, its mind-bending plot and stunning visuals make for an unforgettable cinematic experience that rewards multiple viewings."



g) Rating:

A numerical or star rating summarising your assessment;

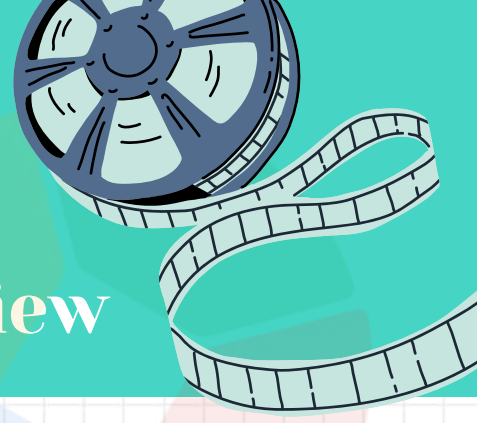
1. 4 out of 5 stars
2. 8/10

3. 90%
4. 3.5 out of 4 stars



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How to Write a Movie Review



3. Step-by-Step Guide to Write a Movie Review

Step 1: Watch the movie

- Pay close attention to all aspects of the film
- Take notes on key scenes, dialogues, and your reactions

Step 2: Research the film's background

- Learn about the director, cast, and production details
- Understand the film's context (e.g., genre, time period, cultural significance)

Step 3: Organise your thoughts

- Reflect on your overall impression of the film
- Identify the movie's strengths and weaknesses



Step 4: Craft an engaging introduction

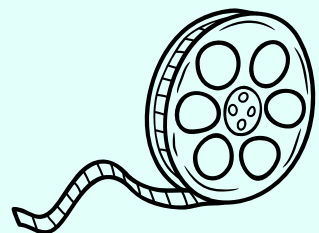
- Hook the reader with an interesting opening line
- Provide basic information about the film (title, director, main actors)

Step 5: Write a brief plot summary

- Give an overview of the story without revealing major spoilers
- Focus on the main conflict or premise

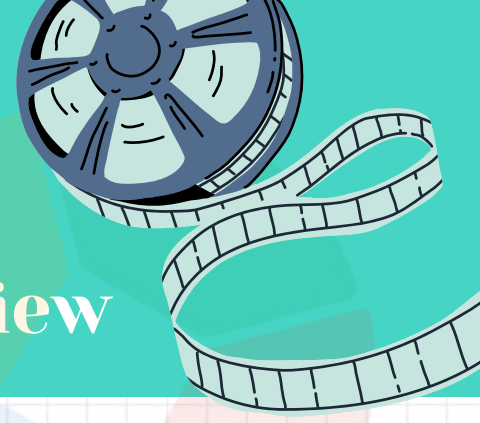
Step 6: Analyse the film's elements

- Discuss the quality of acting performances
- Evaluate the director's style and choices
- Comment on the cinematography, music, and special effects
- Explore the themes and messages of the film



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How to Write a Movie Review



3. Step-by-Step Guide to Write a Movie Review

Step 7: Support your opinions

- Use specific examples from the movie to illustrate your points
- Compare the film to others in the same genre or by the same director, if relevant



Step 8: Consider your audience

- Tailor your language and level of analysis to your intended readers
- Avoid jargon unless writing for a specialised film audience

Step 9: Conclude with your recommendation

- Summarise your overall opinion
- Suggest who might enjoy the film (or who should avoid it)

Step 10: Assign a rating

- Choose a rating system (stars, numbers, or grades) and apply it consistently



Step 11: Review and revise

- Check for clarity, coherence, and flow
- Ensure you've covered all crucial aspects of the film

Step 12: Polish your writing

- Edit for grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Refine your language for maximum impact

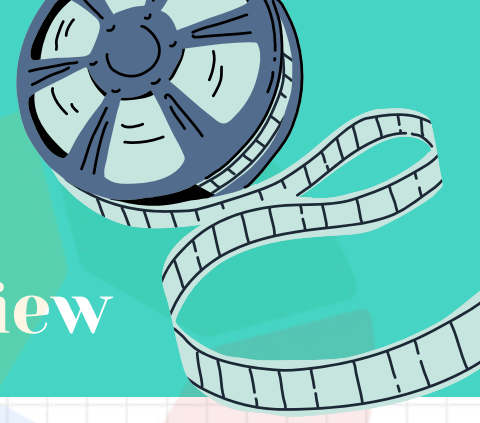


Step 13: Craft a catchy title

- Create a headline that reflects your review's tone and main point

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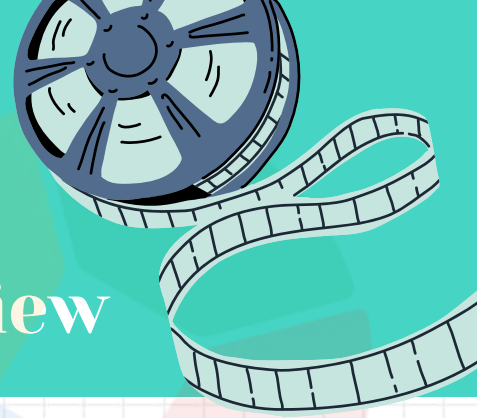


4. Vocabulary for Movie Review Writing

- **Cinematography:** The art of photography and visual storytelling in films
- **Plot:** The main events of a story, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence
- **Character development:** The process of creating a fictional character's emotional depth and complexity
- **Dialogue:** The conversations between characters in a movie
- **Pacing:** The speed at which a story unfolds
- **Soundtrack:** The music used in a film
- **Special effects:** Visual or audio effects created for use in films
- **Mise-en-scène:** The arrangement of scenery and stage properties in a play or film
- **Genre:** A category of artistic composition characterised by similarities in form, style, or subject matter
- **Narrative:** A spoken or written account of connected events; a story
- **Protagonist:** The main character in a story
- **Antagonist:** A person who actively opposes or is hostile to someone or something; an adversary
- **Climax:** The most intense, exciting, or important point of something; the culmination
- **Denouement:** The final part of a play, movie, or narrative in which the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved
- **Montage:** The technique of selecting, editing, and piecing together separate sections of film to form a continuous whole

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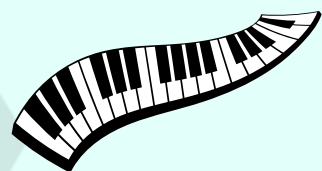
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5. Example Sentences

1. "The film's haunting score, composed by Hans Zimmer, elevates the emotional impact of each scene."

2. "Meryl Streep delivers a tour de force performance, seamlessly disappearing into her role as the iron-willed Margaret Thatcher."



3. "The director's innovative use of long takes immerses the viewer in the chaotic world of the protagonist."

4. "Despite its ambitious premise, the movie's plot becomes muddled in the third act, leaving viewers more confused than intrigued."

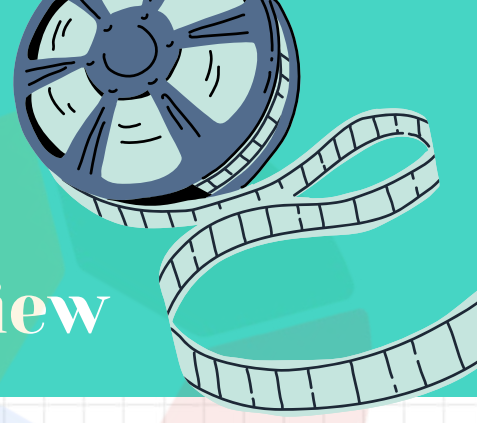


5. "The chemistry between the lead actors crackles with electricity, making their on-screen romance utterly believable."



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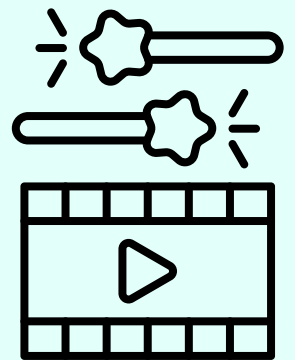
5. Example Sentences

6. "Wes Anderson's signature whimsical style is on full display, from the meticulously crafted sets to the quirky costume designs."



7. "The film's pacing is relentless, barely giving the audience a moment to catch their breath between action sequences."

8. "While the special effects are undoubtedly impressive, they sometimes overshadow the human element of the story."

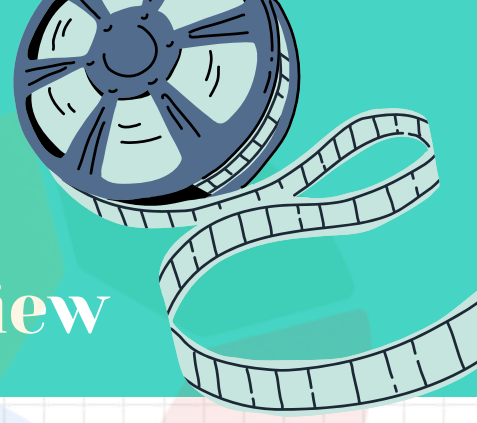


9. "The movie's nuanced exploration of complex themes elevates it beyond a simple superhero flick to a thought-provoking commentary on power and responsibility."

10. "In the hands of a lesser director, this material might have felt trite, but Greta Gerwig infuses every frame with genuine warmth and authenticity."

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6. Full Exemplar Movie Review

"Everything Everywhere All at Once": A Mind-Bending Multiverse of Emotions

"Everything Everywhere All at Once," directed by Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, is a genre-defying masterpiece that blends multiverse storytelling with family drama and absurdist humor. The film follows Evelyn Wang (Michelle Yeoh), a Chinese-American immigrant who discovers she can access the abilities of her alternate selves across parallel universes. Amidst the chaos of bizarre realities, the story remains grounded in the emotional struggles of family, generational trauma, and the search for meaning.

Michelle Yeoh delivers a remarkable performance, supported by a strong cast, including Ke Huy Quan, Stephanie Hsu, and Jamie Lee Curtis. Visually stunning, the film's distinct styles and frenetic editing capture the disorienting multiverse experience. The action sequences are both thrilling and comedic, adding to the film's unique charm.

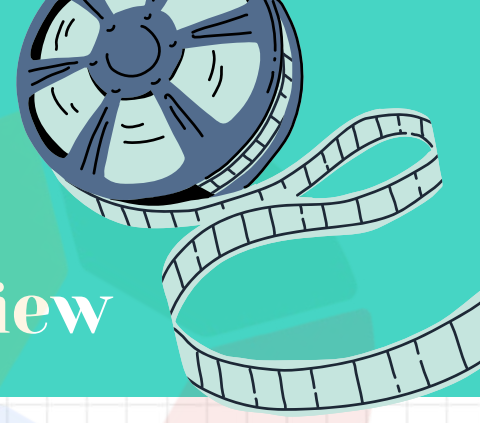
While the film's pace and complexity may be overwhelming for some, it balances its high-concept premise with genuine emotional depth, making it a deeply human story. *"Everything Everywhere All at Once"* is a triumph of imagination and filmmaking, offering a poignant exploration of love, family, and life's infinite possibilities.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars

This film is a must-see, blending mind-bending sci-fi with heartfelt storytelling, reminding us of the infinite possibilities of cinema and life.

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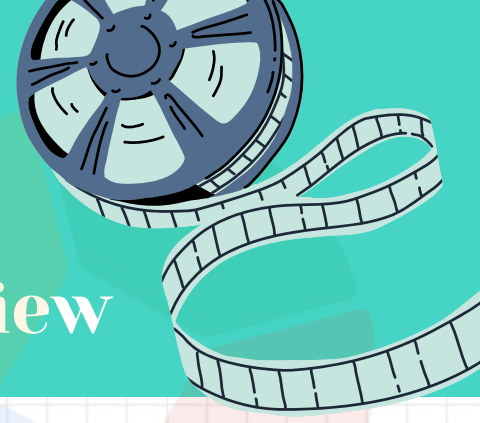


7. Tasks, Exercises, and Activities

- 1. Genre Deep Dive:** Choose a film you've recently watched. Identify its primary genre (e.g., comedy, horror, drama, sci-fi). Write a review that explores how the film either adheres to or subverts the typical characteristics of its genre. How does this impact your overall enjoyment of the movie?
- 2. Headline Hookline:** After watching a film, craft five different headlines for your review. Each headline should capture a unique aspect of the movie (e.g., plot, performance, visual style) and be engaging enough to make readers want to continue. Choose your favourite and explain why it best represents your review.
- 3. Gripping Openings:** Select a movie you haven't seen but find intriguing based on its poster or trailer. Write an attention-grabbing opening paragraph for a hypothetical review. Focus on creating anticipation without giving away too much information.
- 4. Character Journey:** Pick a central character from a film you've watched recently. Write a review that focuses primarily on this character's arc throughout the movie. Discuss their development, the actor's performance, and how their journey contributes to the overall story.
- 5. Cinema Showdown:** Choose two films that share a common element (same genre, director, lead actor, etc.). Write a comparative review that analyses their similarities and differences. Discuss which film you believe is more successful and why.

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How to Write a Movie Review



7. Tasks, Exercises, and Activities

- 6. Pivotal Moment:** Identify a key scene from a movie you've watched. Write a detailed review of this scene, analysing elements such as cinematography, acting, dialogue, and music. Explain how this scene is crucial to the film's overall narrative and impact.
- 7. Sounds of Cinema:** Select a film with a memorable soundtrack. Write a review that emphasises how the music enhances the movie experience. Discuss specific scenes where the soundtrack particularly shines and how it contributes to the film's atmosphere or storytelling.
- 8. Visual Feast:** Choose a visually striking film. Write a review focusing solely on its visual elements - cinematography, special effects, set design, and costume. Avoid discussing plot or performances, instead explaining how these visual aspects contribute to the film's overall impact.
- 9. Words on Screen:** Pick a film known for its sharp dialogue. Write a review that centres on the movie's use of language. Analyse memorable quotes, discuss how dialogue reveals character or advances the plot, and evaluate how effectively the script contributes to the film's themes.
- 10. Star Justification:** Choose a film you have strong opinions about. Assign it a rating out of 5 stars, then write a review that justifies this rating. Be specific about what elements of the film influenced your rating, providing clear examples to support your assessment.