

Movie Review Reminders

At the beginning, pay attention to the credits. Write down names:

The Director:

The Screenwriter:

The major actors/actresses:

The minor actors/actresses:

Be sure to listen closely and write down the names of the characters that each of the above actors play. Leave plenty of room after each actor's name so you can make notes about the performance.

A good plot should have some structure – an exposition which explains the major characters and sets up the action, a rising action section which is the main body of the plot – the events should follow in logical order, a climax which is the highest point of action or the point where a crucial decision is made or action is taken, and a resolution in which all of the loose ends are tied up including any minor characters and subplots.

Other parts of a movie which can be evaluated are: **LIGHTING** (this can be important especially in movies with a dark theme), **COSTUMES** (important in movies which take place in a different time period or at an exotic location), **STUNTS** (in action movies **usually**), **SPECIAL EFFECTS** (sci-fi, fantasy or sometimes used sparingly in 'regular' movies), **MUSIC** (many movies aimed at high school age audiences are also vehicles for selling music), **CHOREOGRAPHY** (musicals), **SETS** (often in sci-fi or fantasy).

EVERY movie review should evaluate the plot (the director and screenwriter's obligation), the dialogue (especially in comedies – the screenwriter's obligation) and the acting (obviously the actor's obligation although miscast actors are the director's fault).

BE SURE to evaluate the acting on an INDIVIDUAL basis. Don't group the acting under a blanket statement- "The actors all played their parts well" – BORING and NOT INFORMATIVE! Pay attention to the minor characters, often they feature the best acting.

YOUR EVALUATION needs to take into account the intended audience of the film.

Although YOU may not have found the film interesting, maybe it was intended for a different audience.

Be sure to offer a recommendation, sometimes you may have to qualify this – "This movie would be great for fans of science fiction but others will find it boring." OR "This movie is appropriate for high school age and above but some of the language might be inappropriate for younger audiences."