

## 3.5 Film Review

### ICE BREAKERS

- **Read the following conversation and complete the activities given below:**

**Minnie** : Exams are over. I feel so relaxed! Let us plan something interesting.

**Ritu** : How about a movie?

**Paddy** : Great! Let's go for "Aladdin"!

**Minnie** : Oh, no! I have seen it. It has only a 'one star' rating.

**Ritu** : How about that new release ummm....yes, "Harry Potter?"

**Della** : It is boring. I have read the review this morning. I don't want to waste my time.

**Paddy** : Wait, friends. I will check. Let's decide later.

- (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.

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

- (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.

## The Jungle Book-Movie Review

### Story

Rudyard Kipling's classic tale of a young boy brought up in the jungle by various animals is brought to life once again on the big screen in a fittingly wonderful way. Mowgli leads a peaceful and happy life with a wolf pack led by Akela (Esposito) and Raksha (Nyong'o) until the tiger Sher Khan (Elba) enters the scene, bearing an old grudge and an insatiable desire for revenge.

### Review

If you go to the cinema to watch a movie that will draw you into a fantasy world of wonder, Favreau's retelling of this story – which so many of us remember from childhood – manages to weave that magic. We all know how the story plays out. With the panther Bagheera's (Kingsley) help, Mowgli (Sethi) tries to stay away from Sher Khan. He also encounters the devious python Kaa (Johansson), a super-sized orangutan with a soul-singer's baritone named King Louie (Walken) desperate to obtain the 'red flower' (which is fire) and of course, Baloo the grizzly bear (Murray). These are the key characters, but you'll also be delighted to discover a few new entrants along the way as well. It all builds on the charm of the 1967 film, which by itself is a must watch for any child.

### Movie

While Sethi is of course, the only real person in here, all the animals have a fantastic degree of photorealism. And Sethi's interaction with the animals throughout the duration of the movie, given that they are CGI, is completely convincing. He combines innocence and warmth with the survival skills and resourcefulness of someone far older.

While Favreau is faithful to the old elements, (old songs like Bare Necessities included, of course) he also brings in a few new subtle touches as well in order to keep things interesting. While the King Louie scene is one of the many high points, Kaa's screen time could have been lengthened a bit, though. Nonetheless, the performance of the voice cast is spot-on. But more than anything, the intricate landscaping, masterful camerawork and environment (actually filmed in Downtown Los Angeles) create a delightfully immersive experience. Heartwarming and enjoyable.

**TIMES OF INDIA**

Reagan Gavin Rasquinha, TNN,

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## Steps to write a film review

### Step I - Before watching the movie make a study of-

- (a) the relevance of the title.
- (b) the year of release.
- (c) the names of script writer, producer, director, characters.
- (d) the genre (type of film).

### Step II - While watching the movie-

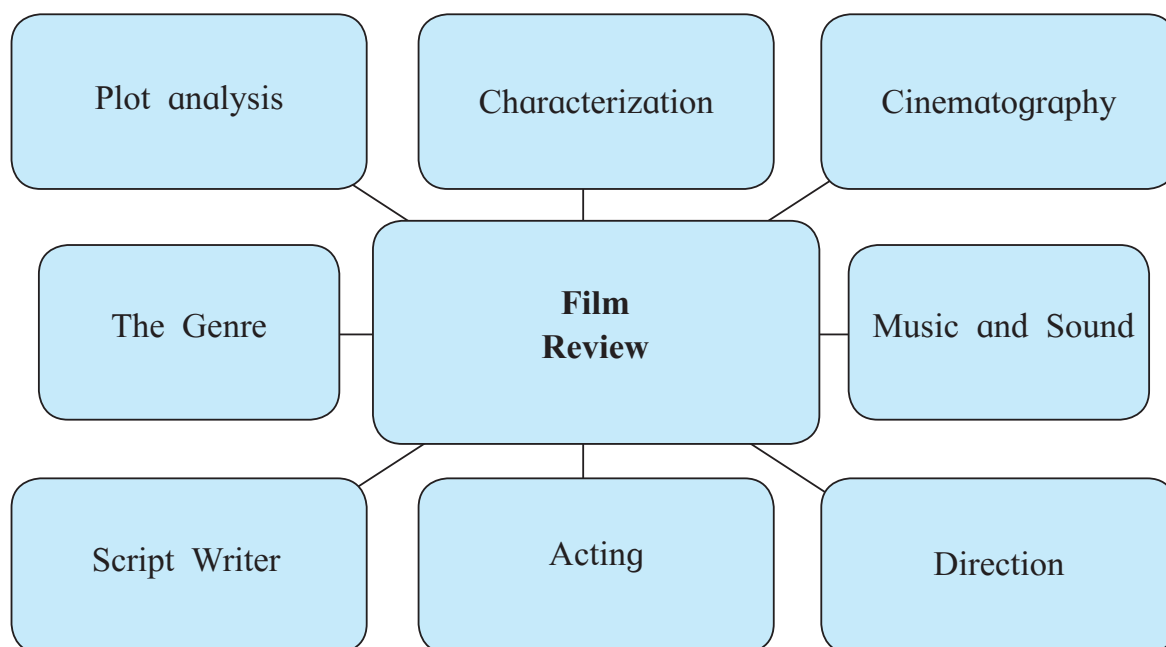
- (a) watch the movie attentively (as many times as required).
- (b) take notes about major and minor events/scenes, acting, cinematography, locations, plot, characters, moral, music, direction, set-designs, background music, sound and recording quality, message etc.

### Step III - After watching the movie-

- (a) choose an appropriate format for review writing.
- (b) organise the sequence of the events commented on according to their importance.
- (c) make use of proper language and vocabulary.
- (d) do the actual writing of the report/ typing/editing/ proof-reading/re-editing. Final presentation.

## 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.



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

- Classic element
- Fantasy
- Photorealism
- Blending of emotions

**(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’.

**(A2) (i) Complete the following sentences.**

**The factors that have made ‘The Jungle Book’ a great movie are -**

- (a) It’s a fantasy world of wonder.
- (b) .....
- (c) .....
- (d) .....

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

**(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.**

- (a) Storyline
- (b) Producer
- (c) Director
- (d) Music Director
- (d) Characters/ casting (major and minor)
- (e) Setting / location
- (f) Conflict
- (g) Message
- (h) Significance of the title

**(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 help of the following points.**

- choice of a topic
- central theme

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

Professions	Professional skills
1. Actor-Male or Female	acting, voice modulation, body language, facial expressions etc.
2. Director	
3. Producer	
4. Music director	
5. Script writer	
6. Lyricist	
7. Cameramen	
8. Cinematographer	
9. Set designer	
10. Costume desingner	

- (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.

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