

## WRITING A FILM OR BOOK REVIEW

- Read the **film review** and do the exercises that you will find if you click on the following link:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/skills/writing/upper-intermediate-b2-writing/skyfall-film-review>

- Read the **book reviews** and do the exercises you will find if you click on the following links:

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/graded-reading/wonder-book-review-level-2>

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/magazine/books/frankenstein-underestimated-novel>

- **Write a review of one of your favourite books or films** (about 150-180 words) (πρώτα διάβασε τη θεωρία που θα βρεις παρακάτω)

(Γράψε την έκθεση στο τετράδιό σου ή σε ένα έγγραφο word και στείλε το με μήνυμα στην eclass)

### Writing reviews

- A review is a brief description of a book, play, album, video game, etc. A review gives the main points of the plot including the writer's comments/recommendation.
- When writing a review consider the tenses you should use for each paragraph. When describing the plot, the present tense should be used. Paragraphs should include more than one sentence. When a new topic is introduced, begin a new paragraph. Your recommendation or judgment should be included in the conclusion. Always give good reasons to support your comments/opinions.
- The style of a review can be formal or informal depending on the intended reader.

### Useful language

#### Background

The film/story is set in...; The film... is about/ describes/ is set in 1940s' England

This well-written/informative/fascinating book...; This original first novel/album....; The book/film tells the story of...; The book/novel was written

by...; The film is directed by...; It is a comedy/horror film/love story/ animated film/science fiction film/action film/an adventure.

### Main points of the plot

The plot focuses on...; The story begins/concerns/is about...; The plot has an unexpected twist...; The film reaches a dramatic climax...; The plot is (absolutely) thrilling/ (rather) boring.

### General comments and opinion

It is rather confusing/long/boring...; The cast is excellent/weak/awful/unconvincing...; The script is clever/dull/exciting...; It has a tragic/surprising/dramatic end...; It is beautifully/poorly/badly written...; the arrangements (ενορχήστρωση) are simple/effective/complicated...; rich/dull sound; catchy tune; features a variety of musical instruments; powerful/weak voice.

### SOME MORE USEFUL PHRASES:

- The plot is
- The stunts/special effects are
- The acting is
- The dialogue is
- In the beginning,
- A little later,
- After a few scenes,
- In the end,
- As the story comes to an end,
- The plot reaches its climax when
- Never before have I seen
- It was the most

**Film Types:** comedy, adventure film, thriller, science fiction, detective story, romantic film, romance, western, animated film, action film, horror film

### Useful Adjectives:

**big** = huge, enormous, vast immense

**good** = thrilling, wonderful, brilliant, amusing extraordinary

**bad** = awful, terrible, horrible, frightening of poor quality

**happy** = pleased, delighted, thrilled, cheerful, in a good mood, satisfied, optimistic

**nice** (people) = pleasant, lovely, great, charming, likable

**nice** (experience) = enjoyable, lovely, delightful

**boring** = dull, monotonous

**funny** = amusing, humorous, witty, hilarious

**clever** = intelligent, ingenious

## PLAN:

### Introduction

Prg 1: Background (setting, type of story, characters)

### Main body:

Prg 2: Main points of the plot

Prg 3: General comments

### Conclusion:

Final prg: Recommendation

## MODEL FILM REVIEW

### Pirates of the Caribbean

*Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* is the third film following the adventures of Captain Jack Sparrow. It is an **action-adventure film** with an **all-star cast** including Johnny Depp as Captain Jack, Orlando Bloom as Will Turner, Kiera Knightly as his fiancée and many others.

Captain Jack Sparrow is trapped in Davy Jones' Locker and Will, Elizabeth and Barbossa are on a quest to rescue him. Lord Cutler Beckett has the flying Dutchman and is destroying pirate ships all around the world. The only way to stop him is to bring together the nine pirate lords, including Jack Sparrow, and release the sea goddess Calypso to destroy The Flying Dutchman.

The film is exciting, fast-paced and action-packed. The plot is thrilling with lots of twists and turns and the special effects are fantastic. The actors, especially Depp, give fantastic performances and the directing is excellent.

This film is well worth seeing. It will have you on the edge of your seat from beginning to end. Don't miss it!

## MODEL FILM REVIEW

### Skyfall

Skyfall is one of the best action films in recent years. Released in 2012, it stars Daniel Craig as secret agent James Bond and Spanish actor Javier Bardem in the role of Raoul Silva, the villain in this film.

The plot involves a genius computer hacker who is an ex-spy. He wants to take revenge on the organisation he used to work for and James Bond has to prevent this from happening. There are a lot of exciting action scenes as Bond pursues him around the world. Can he stop him before it is too late?

The film is set in a variety of locations including Istanbul, Shanghai, Macau, London and Scotland, which gives it a very international atmosphere. The soundtrack is impressive and includes the theme song 'Skyfall', performed by English singer Adele. The acting is also of a very high standard and Bardem brings his character to life with a dazzling and memorable performance.

I would highly recommend Skyfall, especially if you are keen on action films. It will have you on the edge of your seat until the very end and I am sure you will not regret watching it.

## MODEL BOOK REVIEW

### *Wonder*

*What is wonder about?*

*Wonder* tells the story of August, a ten-year old boy who lives with his parents and sister in New York. August, or Auggie as his family call him, is an ordinary boy in many ways. He rides a bike and likes playing with his Xbox. But Auggie was born with deformities of the face and looks very different from other kids. At the start of the book, he tells us 'My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.' Auggie's appearance shocks people. People look at him for a long time or sometimes they look away as soon as they see him.

Auggie's had 27 operations on his face and has spent a lot of time in hospital. His mother has taught him at home, but now that he's ten, she thinks he should go to school. At first, Auggie hates the idea of school and doesn't want to go. He worries that other kids will look at him strangely or call him horrible names, but his parents persuade him to visit a school and meet the headteacher. After the visit, Auggie decides that, yes, he will go to school.

Like many kids, Auggie is really anxious on the first day. Because of his face, nobody wants to sit next to him and he notices other kids looking and talking about him behind their hands. Fortunately, he makes friends with Jack, a boy in his class, and Flower, a girl he chats with at lunch. But after surviving the first day, Auggie soon learns that his classmates are saying they will catch 'the plague' if they touch him. *Wonder* tells the story of Auggie's first year at school and how other kids treat him. It's a difficult year with good and bad times. But towards the end, a frightening and dramatic event at a school camp changes things completely.

**Is it a good book?**

*Wonder* is an excellent book that tells a moving and inspiring story. It's fast-moving and gripping too. I found myself reading it on the bus even if I only had time to read a couple of pages. It appeals to all age groups and is very popular with teenagers and adults. Auggie is a very likeable central character. He's got a good sense of humour, so the book is both funny and sad at times. It's a fascinating story about a regular kid who's living in a world that's not used to people who look different.

One great thing about the book is that it's told from the point of view of different characters. We begin with Auggie, but then the story is told by his sister, Via, and his schoolmates till we come back to Auggie at the end. This works really well as we find out what it's like for Via to have a younger brother who takes a lot of her parents' attention. We also learn how Jack is left out of the 'popular group' at school, just because he is Auggie's friend.

## **A bestseller**

*Wonder* is RJ Palacio's **first novel**. On her website, she explains that the idea for the book came to her after seeing a girl with facial deformities on the street one day. ***Wonder* has been a bestseller in the United States and has won several awards.** Many schools are using it to start discussions about bullying, friendship and being different. **A film version is being made**, and many, including me, are looking forward to seeing what RJ Palacio writes next.