

## Teacher Notes



# Musing on Movies

## Activity 1 Your Movie Review

### Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** English
- ◆ **Subject Area:** English/Language Arts
- ◆ **Category:** Expository Compositions
- ◆ **Topic:** Musing on Movies
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 9 – 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** None
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 100 minutes

### Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus or TI-83 Plus Silver Edition
- ◆ TI Connectivity cable or TI-Navigator System
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ Student Work Sheet: **Getting Started on Your Movie Review**
- ◆ LearningCheck™ resource file: **Movie.edc**
- ◆ Optional Student Work Sheets: **Movie Review Anticipation Guide, Listening to the Voice of the Movie Critic** (these are contained in the Movie.edc file)

### ***Activity Overview***

Students will read sample movie reviews to understand the voice of the movie critic. Students will also watch an episode of *Ebert and Roeper*.

### ***Tip***

One excellent source for movie reviews is the *Rotten Tomatoes* website. For any given film, the site displays quotes from critics that function as links to full reviews. Go to: [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com). For detailed information on Roger Ebert and Richard Roeper's television show, go to: [www.ebertandroeper.tv](http://www.ebertandroeper.tv).

The website offers visitors the ability to listen to current and past episodes using RealAudio technology.

## **Directions**

### **Before the Activity Begins**

Using either a TI Connectivity cable or a TI-Navigator™ System, send the LearningCheck™ file for the *Movie Review Anticipation Guide* to survey the students and promote discussion.

Open the LearningCheck™ Creator on your desktop. Click on File, Open, and navigate to the folder on your computer where you have stored the LearningCheck™ files for this lesson. Select the file entitled **Movie.edc**. This file contains four sections, *Movie Review Anticipation Guide*, *Listening to the Voice of the Movie Critic*, *Rubric for Movie Review*, and *Reflecting On What You've Done*. The last three sections are used later in the lesson.

Connect one of the student devices and click on the device icon in the tool bar (fifth icon from the left). Repeat this procedure with three or four more students. They then continue to share the files using the unit-to-unit cables. This process takes about four minutes. If you have the TI-Navigator™ system, you can distribute the file to the entire class in a minute or less.

### **During the Activity**

Students will read sample movie reviews individually and watch an episode of *Ebert and Roeper* before meeting in small groups to discuss the reviews. Direct students to open the second section of the LearningCheck™ file *Listening to the Voice of the Movie Critic*.

Note: You may choose to have students watch *Ebert and Roeper* on their own time as opposed to watching an episode in class. See the show's website, [www.ebertandroeper.tv](http://www.ebertandroeper.tv), for local listings. If the show is not broadcast in your area, students can listen to current and past episodes at the site.

### **After the Activity**

Wrap up the activity by asking group representatives to report the conclusions of their groups.

### **Homework**

Assign pairs of students to watch a movie as homework. Having two students see the same movie is necessary for Activity 3 to be successful. I suggest creating a list of movies for students to choose from. The movies should have one thing in common: you, the teacher, have already seen them. Do not be afraid to throw a few curveballs with your list. Don't make a list that consists only of blockbuster popcorn flicks or Oscar-winners. Consider adding arthouse films, documentaries and foreign films to the list. Your list of movies may be based around a particular theme or complement what is going on in your students' social studies or science classes.

Give each student a copy of the handout titled *Getting Started on Your Movie Review*.

***Student Data Sheet***  
***Getting Started on Your***  
***Movie Review***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Movie:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Year released:** \_\_\_\_\_

As you watch the movie, record your reactions. What goes through your mind as you watch the movie? Use the jumpstarts below.

***Jumpstarts***

I began to think of \_\_\_ when...

I can really...

I can't really...

I can't believe...

I found it interesting when \_\_\_ said...

I like...

I don't like...

I like the idea of...

I don't like the idea of...

I love the way...

I hate the way...

I had a hard time understanding...

I know the feeling...

I noticed...

I predict that...

I see...

I don't see...

I started to think about...

I suppose...

I thought...

I was distracted by...

I was reminded of...

I was surprised...

I wish...

I wonder why...

After \_\_\_\_, my first thought was...

If I could, I'd ask \_\_\_\_...

If I could, I'd ask the creator(s)...

If I had been...

It really bothered me when...

Maybe...

One theme that keeps coming up is...

One thing that grabbed my attention was...

The most interesting event in the text is...

What if...

Why did...

Why did the creator(s)...

Note: Many of the phrases above come from Jim Burke's Reading: Think About It 2.0 bookmark at [EnglishCompanion.com](http://EnglishCompanion.com). Used with permission, Heinemann Publishers, Portsmouth, RI.

**Student Data Sheet**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Movie Review Anticipation Guide**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: This work sheet is available in electronic format in the **Movie.edc** LearningCheck™ file.

1. Do you like to watch movies?
2. How often do you go to a theater to see a movie?
3. How often do you watch movies at home?
4. What kind of movies do you like? Check all that apply.
  - Action
  - Animated
  - Comedy
  - Documentary
  - Drama
  - Foreign
  - Fantasy
  - Musical
  - Science fiction
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
5. Do you read movie reviews?

If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, where do you read movie reviews? Check all that apply.

  - Internet
  - Local newspaper
  - Other newspaper
  - Magazine
  - Other \_\_\_\_\_
6. What are your three favorite movies?
  - ① \_\_\_\_\_
  - ② \_\_\_\_\_
  - ③ \_\_\_\_\_

***Student Data Sheet***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***Listening to the Voice of the Movie Critic***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: This work sheet is available in electronic format in the **Movie.edc** LearningCheck™ file.*

Read a sampling of movie reviews and answer the questions below.

1. Find examples of a critic writing in the first-person.
2. Find examples of a critic using evaluative words and phrases. Here is a list of some common evaluative words: best, worst, good, bad, effective, ineffective, succeeds, fails, like, dislike.
3. What do the critics/reviews have in common?
4. How are the critics/reviews different?
5. What critics did you agree with? Provide details.
6. What critics did you disagree with? Provide details.