

## Film and TV Club

*Ms Powell can't decide what film to watch and needs your help We want you to watch a review films and TV and send your reviews in, so we can make the AAA IMDB page. Lockdown is the perfect time to stay at home and hone your writing skills and critics eye.*

### Writing a film review

All good film reviews must do three things...

#### 1. Inform

- a. **Summarise** – Give a brief explanation of the plot (but don't give away the ending or any surprise plot twists, that's called a "spoiler").
- b. **The Talent** - Tell the reader who the director, writer and actors are (have a look on [www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com), if you're not sure) and give some relevant background information.
- c. **Contextualise** - Put the film in context – tell the reader about the genre (type) of the film or other similar films

#### 2. Entertain

- a. **Describe** – Use interesting language to recreate for the reader the experience of watching the film. You can use similes, metaphors, puns and adjectives. Be funny! Readers love to laugh.
- b. **Reference** – Help the reader to understand what the film is like by comparing it to other films they might have seen. This is also a good way to show off your film knowledge.
- c. **Exaggerate** – Get your readers excited about the film – either positively or negatively by using 'hyperbole' or over-the-top, exaggerated language e.g. "Avatar has the best special effects since cinema was invented"

#### 3. Evaluate

- a. **Evaluate** - Tell the reader which bits were good and which bits were bad. Also, did you think it was a good or bad film overall? This is usually the last paragraph or sentence.
- b. **Explain** – Don't forget to use interesting adjectives why it was good or why it was bad.
- c. **Rate** – How many stars would you give your film (usually out of 5)?



## Film review checklist

Imagine that your review is to be posted on an Internet film website. It will be read by people of all ages.

- **Film title.** You could also include a **star rating** here.
- **Introduction:** what you expected from the film
- **Genre:** what type of film is it? Does it have a message?
- **Plot:** what happens in the film? Does the plot make sense? Is it easy enough to follow? Is it believable?
- **Characters:** Who are the main characters and what are they like? Who are the actors playing these parts, and are they good in the parts?
- Did you **enjoy** the film? Why/why not? What were its good and bad points?
- Write about **a scene** you particularly enjoyed or remembered. Why was it good/ memorable?
- Would you **recommend** this film? To what sorts of people? Why?
- Are there any **other films** you can compare this film to?



## Models

**Empire online** review all the latest movies and give them a score out of 5 stars. Check out their review of Toy story (1995), notice how they explain the plot and introduce key characters without giving anything away.

<https://www.empireonline.com/movies/reviews/toy-story-review/>

**Guardian film** reviews showcase a range of films. Check out their review of Trolls World Tour (2020), they use quotes from the film and pick out parts of the film that really stood out.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/apr/11/trolls-world-tour-review-uplifting-animated-sequel>

**IMDB & Rotten Tomatoes** – the critics reviews on these websites are well structured and use parts of the film to prove their points. There is also a range of user reviews from members of the public.

<https://www.imdb.com/>

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/latest\\_reviews](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/latest_reviews)

## Recommended films and TV

### **The Kings Speech [2010]**

Following the scandalous abdication of his brother King Edward VIII, Bertie, who has suffered from a debilitating speech impediment all his life, is suddenly crowned King George VI of the United Kingdom. With his country on the brink of war and in desperate need of a leader, his wife Elizabeth seeks out the help of eccentric speech therapist Lionel Logue.



Based on the true story of King George VI, The King's Speech is the inspirational tale of one man's quest to find his voice – this is available free on iplayer for the next two weeks!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0bc5spx/the-kings-speech>

### **Louis Theroux: Most dangerous pets [2011]**

According to some reports, there are now more tigers in captivity in the US than in the wild in the whole of Asia, as well as large numbers of lions, bears and chimpanzees.



Travelling to America's heartlands, Louis Theroux spends time with an Oklahoma man who has bred and collected over 150 tigers, visits the woman who privately owns one of America's largest collections of chimpanzees, and finds himself in uncomfortably close contact with a number of big cats and

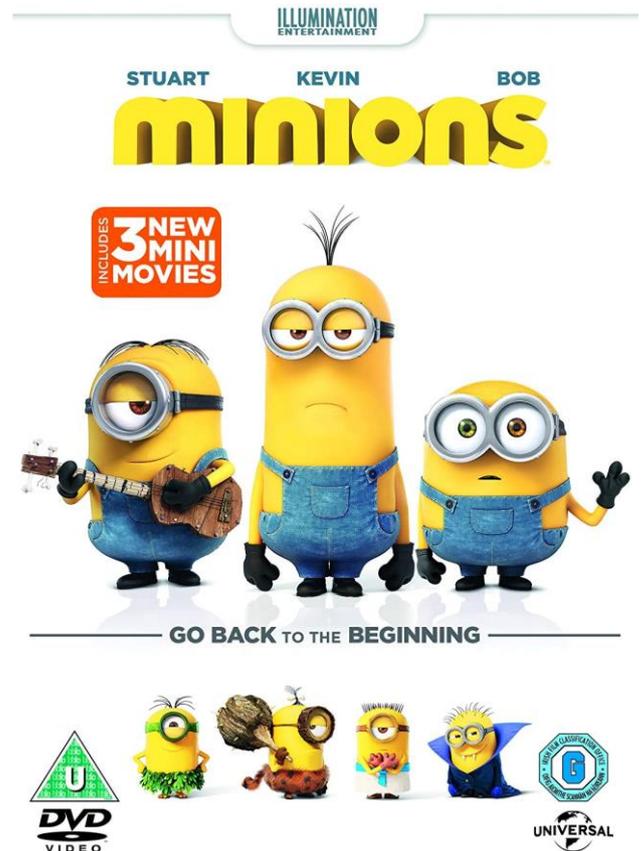
dangerous primates. Available free on iplayer!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b016yklh/louis-theroux-americas-most-dangerous-pets>

## Minions [2015]

Ever since the dawn of time, the Minions have lived to serve the most despicable of masters. From the T-Rex to Napoleon, the easily distracted tribe has helped the biggest and the baddest of villains. Now, join protective leader Kevin, teenage rebel Stuart, and lovable little Bob on a global road trip. They'll earn a shot to work for a new boss, the world's first female supervillain, and try to save all of Minionkind from annihilation.

Available now on Netflix



## The Adventures of Tintin [2011]



Despite his youth, Tintin (voiced by Jamie Bell) is a renowned investigative reporter whose best friend is his intrepid dog, Snowy. After he buys a replica of a legendary pirate ship called the Unicorn at an outdoor market, Tintin is immediately approached by an aggressive interested buyer named Mr. Sakharine (Daniel Craig). The sinister Sakharine kidnaps Tintin (and stowaway Snowy) and places them aboard a cargo ship, but the duo escapes and frees the captive (and usually drunk) Captain Haddock (Andy Serkis) from his mutinous crew. Tintin realizes that Sakharine and his goons are after hidden scrolls that will lead to a sunken treasure buried by Haddock's ancestor, Sir Francis Haddock. It's a race between Tintin and Haddock and their nemesis to see who can find the final scroll -- and the treasure -- first.