Learning Activity

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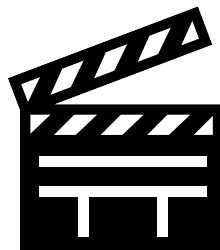Head to alloprof.ca/en
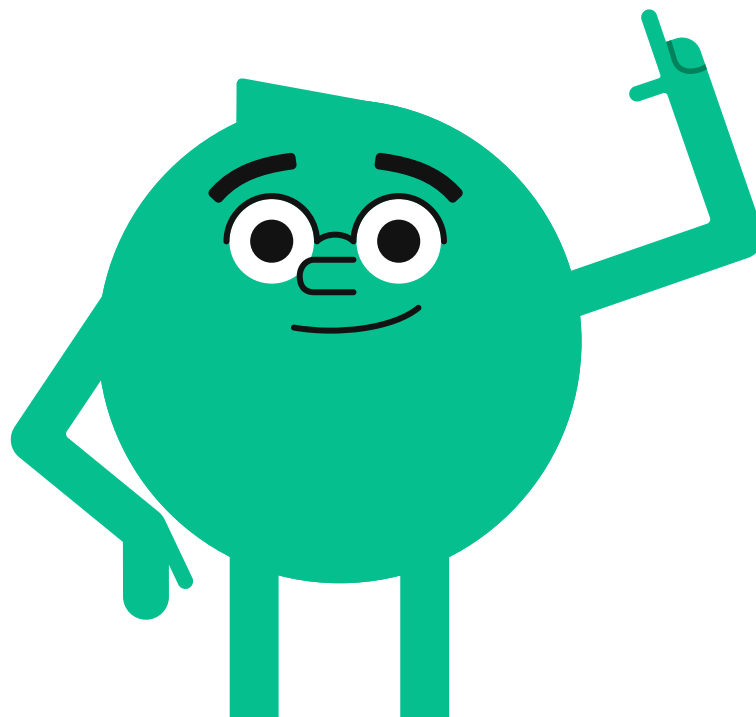for more ressources

English
Secondary I-II

Movie Critic

Teacher Booklet

Instructions/Guidelines

- Form small groups of 2–3 students.

- Each group must agree on a piece of media (movie/show/game) to critique.

- Groups create a review that includes:

  - A plot summary: Keep it basic, with bullet lists and keywords to represent the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story

  - Characters
    - Names
    - Main/defining characteristics
    - Roles/functions in the movie/show/game

  - Assessment
    - Students explain/justify what they liked/didn't like in the selected piece of media
    - Refer students to the Questions to Ask section for ideas of what to consider when formulating their opinions. (also available in the student booklet)

- Groups present their reviews

  - Pair up the groups and have them present their reviews to each other.

  - Encourage discussion and questions after each presentation.
    - For instance: Ask for more examples and/or justifications for their opinions.
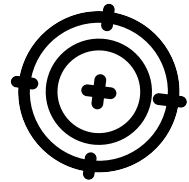
Competency

Speaking

Duration

- 30–45 minutes

Goals

Interaction between students - Develop pertinence of the message - Develop their articulation of a message - Practise communication strategies

- Recasting
- Rephrasing
- Substitution
- Activating prior knowledge
- Comparing & contrasting
- Inferring

Level

Sec 1–2

Material

Student Booklet

Task

- Create a review
- Present the review
- Answer questions

Other

Resource: Formulating questions

In small groups, students review a piece of media such as a movie, show, or game with a storyline.

Questions to Ask - Justification Examples

The Story

I **liked it** questions	I **didn't like it** questions
What made the story interesting to me?	What was missing that would have made the story interesting to me?
What are the strongest parts of the story? What makes them strong? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.	What are the weakest parts of the story? What makes them weak? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.

The Characters

I **liked it** questions	I **didn't like it** questions
Which characters did I like best? Which specific elements made me like these characters? → Name at least 2 examples of character actions and explain your reasoning.	Which characters did I like least?? Which specific elements made me like these characters less? → Name at least 2 examples of character actions and explain your reasoning.

The Technical Aspects

I **liked it** questions	I **didn't like it** questions
What were the best acting performances? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.	What were the worst acting performances? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.
What made the piece of media look good? → Name at least 2 examples (camera work, colour grading, special effects, graphics, design...) and explain your reasoning.	What made the piece of media look bad? → Name at least 2 examples (camera work, colour grading, special effects, graphics, design...) and explain your reasoning.

Compare & Contrast

I **liked it** questions	I **didn't like it** questions
How does it compare to other similar pieces of media of the same type? → Compare to 1 other well regarded piece of media of the same type, genre, category, fandom, time period… with at least 2 specific examples. * Looking at the story, characters, or technical aspects is a good way to find comparison points.	
What makes it a good adaptation of the source material? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.	What makes it a poor adaptation of the source material? → Name at least 2 examples and explain your reasoning.

Final Thoughts

I **liked it** questions	I **didn't like it** questions
Why would you recommend this piece of media to others?	Why wouldn't you recommend this piece of media to others?
Who will this piece of media appeal to?	Who will this piece of media not appeal to at all?