

How to write a movie review?

The example of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

1/ With your partner, discuss to find what are the important elements that must be found in a movie review (*une critique de film*)

2/ Now, log on the Internet and go onto the following website:
<http://screenrave.com/2009-07-14/harry-potter-movie-review/>

Observe this movie review of Harry Potter. What are the key elements of this back cover? (you don't need to understand all the words)

Look for the following key elements in this movie review (you don't need to understand all the words):

- name of the director:

- Plot (Time and place of the story):

- Name of the main actors:

- Acting:

- Special effects:

- Paragraphs: 1 or more? How many?:

- Note the subject of each paragraph:

- Tense (temps des verbes):

3/ When you're finished start thinking about the elements you want to put in your movie review of Dickens' story:



How to write a Film Review



You have read the book and seen the adaptations of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Write a review for the school website.

But first, think about the important elements that need to be found in a movie review:

- **Find a good title:** you need to attract your reader's attention.
The title introduces the theme of the film
Ex: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*: "After 7 years at Hogwarth..."
- Write a short sentence to explain it is the adaptation of a book (title/author/date) and then mention the date of release on screen.
- A short **synopsis**: you need to present the story without revealing the end (present the main character/action/place, etc.) but make sure to keep the suspense for the reader.
- Choose scenes that you really liked and explain why (emotions/filming techniques/special effects)
- Because it's an adaptation, this is the moment when you can compare the film with the book (similarities/differences etc...)
- You can also explain what is special in the film that can't be found in the book (interest of the adaptation?)
- Talk about the actors, if you have anecdotes/details about them on the set, don't hesitate to mention it (Ex: After many films like *The Mask*, or *Dumb and Dumber*, American actor Jim Carrey now stars in a classical English tale...)
- **A small conclusion:** Explain why you would recommend or not recommend the film to the audience.

Remember: Your goal is to attract the readers' attention and to convince viewers to go or not to go and see the film!