

A review of a book/film

I can write a structured review of a film or book with examples and recommendations.

- 1 SPEAKING** When choosing a new book or film, which of the following do you take most/least seriously: recommendations from friends, advertisements and trailers, or critics' reviews? Why?
- 2 SPEAKING** Look at the list of book-to-film adaptations. Discuss which ones you have seen and what star-rating you would give them.

Which are your favourite book-to-film adaptations?

The Hobbit films

Harry Potter series

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo

The Twilight Saga

The Perks of Being a Wallflower

The Hunger Games series

Beautiful Creatures

The Fault in our Stars

You didn't mention my favourite book-turned-movie:

?

- 3** Would you match any of the statements with the films in Exercise 2? If not, how would you describe them?

- It's admirably true to the book(s).
- The special effects are eye-poppingly spectacular.
- The acting is Oscar-worthy.
- Though sentimental at times, I found it genuinely moving.
- It's awesomely entertaining action movie fun.
- I was absolutely gripped by the drama.

- 4 SPEAKING** Read the task and the review. Discuss the question that applies to you.

- 1 You've seen/read *The Hunger Games* films/books. Do you agree or disagree with the reviewer? Identify two points you agree or disagree with and say why.
- 2 You haven't seen the films or read the books. Would you want to either see or read them after reading this review? Why?/Why not?

Reviews Wanted!

Best and Worst Book-to-Film Adaptations!

Send us a review comparing a book and its film adaptation. What is the story about? How effective is the adaptation in your opinion? Would you recommend the film, the book, both or neither?



Why **THE HUNGER GAMES** Works

Good quality books can lead to highly enjoyable film adaptations. Equally though, on-screen versions of successful novels sometimes leave fans bitterly disappointed (case in point *The Twilight Saga*). While they have their weaknesses, *The Hunger Games* films brilliantly capture the political and social undertones of Suzanne Collins' novels.

The Hunger Games depicts a nation governed through fear. As punishment for a past uprising, the Government forces each of its twelve districts to send a teenage boy and girl to compete in the Hunger Games, a nationally televised event in which the participants fight until only one survivor remains. The plot focuses on Katniss, one of the district representatives, played by Jennifer Lawrence. There are great performances from the entire cast, but Lawrence gives a powerhouse portrayal of the heroine.

Each film in the series offers a swiftly paced adaptation of one of the novels. Naturally, the books contain more vivid description to fuel readers' imaginations, but the films still manage to capture much of her darkly dystopian universe. True, there are some major changes, the biggest of which is probably the move away from the first person perspective. Moreover, the controversially graphic violence that shocked and enthralled Collins' teenage readers has been watered down, presumably to keep the PG13* rating. Still, this is tough, dramatic stuff that will keep the majority of viewers on the edge of their seats.

Quite simply *The Hunger Games* films are well-cast, well-paced and well-scripted and I could confidently recommend them to anyone with an interest in action or sci-fi.

*PG13 – may be inappropriate for pre-teenagers (Motion Picture Association of America's film rating system)