Movies are Better Shared

Movies have the power to delight, educate, and change the way we think or feel. Watching together with our kids is a valuable time to connect and allows us to watch more challenging films when we have the ability to “pause...parent...play.”

INVOLVE KIDS IN THE FILM SELECTION

• Take turns or choose by consensus.
• Select films based on genre (comedy) or film type (animation).
• Pick a series of films based on a unifying element such as actor, director or subject.
• Create a film-pick challenge (“must include a robot”) or pull titles from a hat.

SET THE STAGE

• What type of film? (animation? live action? documentary?)
• Is story based on fact? Adapted from a book? Is it a prequel or sequel?
• Does the story (plot) need explanation before viewing?
• When does the story take place? (past, present, future)

TALK ABOUT IT
Share opinions about the movie with each other. How much do you agree or disagree?

• Favorite character? Why?
• Describe your most memorable scene in the film? Did you cry?
• Was there something in the film your kids related to? (animal, place, situation)
• If you made this film, would you change anything?

ACTIVITIES

• Write your own story, make a short movie, dress like one of the characters.
• Prepare snacks that complement the story or re-create a meal from the film.
• Listen to the film soundtrack.

MAKE CONNECTIONS

• Locate the setting on a map and find out more about the region or culture.
• Connect the story to a current news event.
• If based on an actual event, learn more about what really happened.
• If based on a book, read it and discuss how the film is similar or different.
• Does the story inspire you to change something?

Good Film Words To Know

ANIMATION: The illusion that something inanimate (without life) is alive.

CHARACTER: Person (may be an animal or anthropomorphic object) in a story.

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Photography of movement—artistic decisions concerning the film’s visual elements.

DOCUMENTARY: A movie that attempts to explain reality.

GENRE: A common set of distinguishing features in film. (action, adventure, mystery, drama, comedy)

FRAME: A single, still image of a film or video.

PLOT: Basic layout or path of the story.

SETTING: Place and time at which film is represented as happening.

SCRIPT/SCREENPLAY: Written story including dialogue.

SOUND: Music, dialogue, or other noises heard or not heard.

RESOURCES

• PCFF Film Hub (pcffri.org/filmhub)
• Common Sense Media (commonsensemedia.org)
• Internet Movie Database (imdb.com)
• The Best Old Movies for Families by Ty Burr

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