

WRITING A BOOK/FILM REVIEW

Book or a film review should
structure in three main parts.

1. INTRODUCTION

Give the title and author of the book. When reviewing a film mention the director or actors.

- (Name of the book/film) is a romance/an action film/a cartoon/a biography.....
- The film/book tells the story of.....
- The story/film is set.....
- It's based on.....
- It stars.....
- It's written/directed by.....

2. THE MAIN BODY

- Summarize the plot in a few sentences.
- Mention the setting.
- Say something about the main characters.
- Say something about the content.

Paragraph 1

(Main points of the plot)

- The story/film begins.../is about.....
- The story focuses on... (Start telling the story....
- The story is set/ takes place in (place) in (time)...
- The film reaches a dramatic climax.....
- The story/film ends....

Paragraph 2

(Comments)

- It's rather/quite long/confusing/moving/sad....
- It's a well-written book/ well-acted film...
- The script/the story is beautifully written

3. THE CONCLUSION

- Comment on the book/film.
- Let other know whether you liked it or not. Explain why.
- Is the author's style good or bad?
- Is the book/film interesting/boring...?
- Do you recommend the book/film?

- In my opinion....
- I would (not) recommend it because.....
- I really enjoyed/hated it because....
- It is definitely (not) worth seeing/reading.....
- Don't miss it.
- I highly/thoroughly recommend it.

- If you are looking for astory/film you should definitely read/watch...
- It is a highly entertaining film/book/play....
- I was pleasantly surprised by
- If you get a chance to

USEFUL VOCABULARY

Adjectives:

Entertaining, exciting, funny, hilarious,
dull, serious, moving, violent, predictable,
entertaining, frightening, amusing, sad,
Fantastic, romantic, fascinating, excellent,
gripping, dramatic, Tragic, badly/well-
written/-acted/-made, touching dreadful,
spectacular, powerful

Adverbs:

a bit, a little, rather, fairly, really,
absolutely, slightly, quite, very,
extremely

Nouns:

Acting, actor, actress, author,
writer, director, novelist, Character,
ending, story, plot, scene, series,
sequel, Special effects, cast, star,
soundtrack, episode

Verbs:

Act, star, play, write, direct

Types of stories/films:

thriller, comedy, adventure, action,
love story, detective story, mystery,
science fiction, biography,
romance, novel

EXAMPLE

‘A Walk in the Clouds’

This story is about a touching romance which is set in 'The Clouds' the place where the Aragons live. The film is directed by Alfonso Arau. The cast includes Keanu Reeves as Victoria's husband, Aitana Sanchez- Gijon as Victoria Aragón a young student, Anthony Quinn as Victoria's wise grandfather and Giancarlo Giannini as Victoria's father.

It tells the story of a soldier who comes back home to his wife. He has to earn a living so he goes to other places to sell chocolate. Then the soldier meets Victoria who has come back home too. She is pregnant and single. Victoria fears her father. The man proposes her to pretend to be her husband for a day and afterwards, he will carry on his life together with his wife. Victoria agrees with him but her father suspects of them.

The film is filled of amusing and dramatic scenes. The actors give a brilliant performance. It also has beautiful and colourful pictures which go with a superb soundtrack.

I highly recommend it. Don't miss it. If you like familiar values, it will be worth seeing

Thanks