

# Film Adaptations of Literature



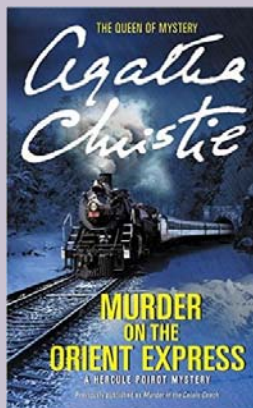
Print vs. Film!



(Adapted for Olympiads School, Grade 9 English)

## Objective

**Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.**



# Why do books become movies?

- Often, film producers and directors love to turn popular books into movies, shorts, musicals, or television shows.
- Why?



# Why do books become movies?

If a book has already earned money for an author, then chances are it will earn money for a director or producer. It will likely draw fans of the book as well as new fans.

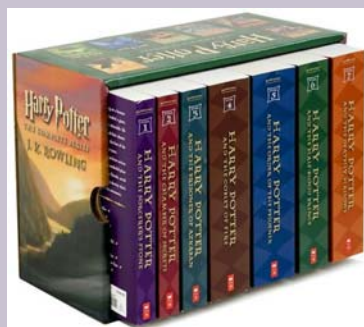


## That isn't how it happened in the book!

- Often, directors, writers and producers make changes to a book when they adapt it to film. Words on a page certainly don't translate directly to pictures on a screen.
- Therefore, a movie will not always stay faithful to a book.
- Sometimes a film, TV, or stage adaptation will depart from the original text.

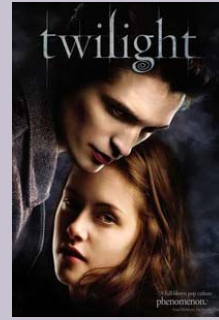
## Discussion

Discuss a novel you have read and a movie adaptation of it that you have seen as well. Did you find that the adaptation was faithful to the original? Were the deviations disappointing? Were they necessary? Did they enhance the story?



## Doesn't that Make the Author Mad?

- Probably not. It makes the author wealthy. When an author sells the rights to a story, he/she generally signs over all choices to the director and produce. Therefore, it's really out of the author's hands.
- Occasionally, the director/producer will have the author help write the script or cast the production. This was true in *Twilight* and *Hunger Games*.



## Strengths and Limitations



Books and films both have :

- strengths (things they do well)
- limitations (things that they are incapable of).

**Example:** One strength of a book is the audience can really get into a character's thoughts. One limitation of a movie is that a character must be nearly entirely conveyed through dialogue and actions.

**Example:** One strength of a movie is that everything can be experienced visually. One limitation of a book is that it relies completely on the author's description and the audience's ability to imagine.

# Changes Filmmakers Make

**Version of Events:** The way the events in a story play out or happen.

A filmmaker might:

- Add events
- Take out events
- Change the order of events
- Change parts of an event
- Completely change an event
- Change which characters participate in events



# Changes Filmmakers Make



Why change the **version of events**?

- Sometimes a film simply can't last long enough to contain all of the events (audiences don't generally like devoting more than 2.5 hours to a movie)
- Sometimes a story must be simplified to account for time limitations.
- Sometimes a film needs to add a part because the audience doesn't have enough back story to understand what's happening
- Sometimes a film adds a part to make a story more compelling
- Sometimes to attract the desired "rating" a film must tone scenes down

# Changes Filmmakers Make

**Characters:** The people in the story

- Sometimes, the character looks different than the character in the book because the casting director wanted to hire an actor who would draw an audience.
- Sometimes, characters get left out to make a film less confusing and because there is no time to build them up.
- Sometimes, several characters get combined into one new character.
- Sometimes, a totally new character gets added to appeal to a wider audience.



## Changes Filmmakers Make

### Details

- Sometimes, filmmakers leave out details about the plot, characters, or setting to simplify the story or address rating or time limitations.
- Sometimes, filmmakers change/add details to make up for storyline that is lost in translation from the page to film.
- Sometimes, filmmakers change/add details to make the film appeal to a larger audience.