Top 5 Episodes

My journey through Doctor Who started with what is considered the “new” series. The “classic” series starts with the initial run of the show in 1963 all the way through the 1996 television movie. The “new” series begins with the “reboot” in 2005, famously brought back to life by Russell T. Davies. Thus far, The Doctor has been played by Christopher Eccleston (#9), David Tennant (#10), Matt Smith (#11), John Hurt (the War Doctor), Peter Capaldi (#12), and, now, Jodie Whittaker (#13), the first female Doctor.

My Top 5 Episodes:

You may notice a trend or two… Most episodes were written by Stephen Moffat, with The Doctor portrayed by David Tennant.

The Day of the Doctor (50th Anniversary Special) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctors: David Tennant, Matt Smith, John Hurt

The Day of the Doctor is an epic adventure with not one but three versions of the Doctor. In this 50th Anniversary Special, we are introduced to the War Doctor (John Hurt), a forgotten regeneration who must make the ultimate sacrifice of his own people to stop the Time War, a deadly war with the murderous Daleks. But things don’t go as planned, and through “wibbily, wobbily, timey, whimey… stuff,” the War Doctor is visited by both the 10th (David Tennant) and the 11th (Matt Smith) Doctor. Can the three Doctors find a way to save the Time Lords from genocide while dealing with the shape-shifting aliens, Zygons, who are invading present-day London.

What I love about this episode:

The Eleventh Hour (Series 5) Written by Stephen Moffat

The Eleventh Hour is the introduction to the 11th Doctor, Matt Smith. In this adventure, The Doctor lands in the backyard of a little girl, Amelia Pond, who happens to have an alien prisoner loose in her home. Before The Doctor can sort out the mystery of Prisoner Zero, he takes his TARDIS for a quick spin, promising to come back in 5 minutes, which turns out to be 12 years. Amelia, now Amy, traumatized from this brief encounter does not trust The Doctor. But The Doctor desperately needs Amy’s help before the alien race, The Atraxi, destroy the planet to retrieve Prisoner Zero.

What I love about this episode:

Blink (Series 3) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctor: David Tennant

The success of the episode Blink (often touted as the ultimate fan favorite episode) is impressive given this is a “Doctor-lite” episode. Meaning, The Doctor has a very small, albeit critical, part to play in the episode. The adventure surrounds Sally Sparrow who comes in contact with the Weeping Angles, a race of aliens that are Quantum Locked and can only move when you are not looking at them. The angels are terrifying, and they are out to steal the TARDIS while destroying the lives of Sally and her companions as the same time. Fans of Doctor Who often quote this episode with the following lines: “Don’t blink. Don’t even blink. Blink and you’re dead”. I created this virtual clock with that in mind: <https://fwallacephd.github.io/angel-clock/>

Human Nature/Family of Blood (Series 3) Written by Paul Cornell, Doctor: David Tennant

Silence in the Library/Forrest of the Dead (Series 4) Written by Stephen Moffat, Doctor: David Tennant