



Objectives

Students will be able to...

- Explain all the necessary components of a quality movie review.
- Watch movies and television shows with a critical lens by considering whether they are humane.
- Write a movie review.

Time Needed

30–45 minutes

2 Days

Materials

- Whiteboard / chalkboard
- Dry erase markers / chalk
- “Humane Movie Review” handout

Activity 5: Humane Movie Review

Overview: Students will watch and review one of their favorite movies with a critical lens by examining whether or not the movie is humane.

Procedure:

DAY 1

Introduction

1. Ask the students how they become interested in seeing a movie. Do they read any reviews of a movie before they decide to go see it?
2. Ask the students, “What should a good movie review include?” List their responses. Include the following possible answers if not said by students: plot/character/setting summary; proper organization; writer’s opinion with supporting details, and outside information/context about the movie.

Humane Lens

1. Write the word *humane* on the board. Ask students to define the word *humane* in their own words.
 - A dictionary definition—marked by compassion, sympathy, or consideration for people or animals
2. Ask the students, “*How can a movie be humane?*” “*What are some themes or topics a movie can present that are considered humane?*”

Humane Movie Themes:

- Reverence for animals (i.e. wildlife, companion animals, farm animals)
 - Spreading compassion to others, including other species
 - Working toward justice for animals
 - Treating animals with compassion, empathy and kindness
 - Stopping the exploitation of animals (protecting animals)
 - Animals as sentient beings
 - Human/animal bond
3. Ask the students for examples of movies that might have humane themes. Explain to the students that any movie can have a humane theme and that some are easier to spot than others.

Humane Movie Review

Hand each student a “Humane Movie Review” handout and instruct them to go home, watch one of their favorite movies, and complete the “Humane Movie Review” handout.

Activity 5: Humane Movie Review (continued)

Insider Tips

- Bring a copy of an example of a good movie review. Have the students read it and explain what they thought the reviewer did well.
- If there is a movie that you believe highlights many of the humane themes discussed in class, assign that movie to the students to watch and have them complete the “Humane Movie Review” handout based on that movie.
- Be prepared to discuss the usage of animals in films/television.

Useful links:

- <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/14/entertainment/la-ca-animal-movies-20110814>
- Pro Animal Actors <http://www.americanhumanefilmtv.org/about/>
- Anti Animal Actors <http://www.peta.org/issues/animals-in-entertainment/animal-actors.aspx>

Classroom Teachers

- This activity can be modified to be a “Humane Literature Review” if your students are learning about the reviewing process.
- If viewing a film during class time, pause the film periodically to allow students to take notes and answer questions on the “Humane Movie Review” handout.

Outside Humane Educators

- To make sure each student goes home and watches a movie with a humane theme, create a list of movies or movie genres for the students to choose from.

DAY 2

Review

1. Have students share their “Humane Movie Review” handout answers in pairs.
2. Once each student has shared in his or her pair, ask the whole class for volunteers to share the movie they saw, a summary of the plot, and answers to the handout.



Humane Movie Review

Name: _____ Date: _____

Movie Title: _____ Year: _____

Plot Summary:

Guiding Questions

1. Were there any animals in the movie? Yes / No
 - 1a. If so, were they animated or were real animals used? Animated / Real / Both
 - 1b. If so, were the animals portrayed positively or negatively? Explain.

2. Did any human characters use animals in the movie? (Examples: riding a horse; raising farm animals; having a police dog.) Yes / No
 - 2a. If so, did the character(s) treat the animal(s) humanely? Explain.

3. What were the overall themes of the movie?

4. Did any of the themes have to do with animals or the treatment of animals? If so, were those themes positive or negative? Explain.

