

Reading part 8

Exam advice

- Read the subtitle to get a general idea of what the text is about
- Read the questions before you scan for the information/ opinions needed
- Read each question very carefully
- Skim the whole of the text before you scan for the information/ opinions needed
- Don't rely on matching up individual words or phrases in the question and the text just because they are the same or similar
- Don't rely on finding all the information you need for a question in just one part of the text
- Don't read the texts carefully before looking at the questions – as you then probably won't have enough time to answer the questions
- If you are not sure of the answer, eliminate any options you are confident are wrong and choose one of the remaining ones

Which of these films

- 1) does the writer see rather differently now than at first? _____
- 2) managed to avoid one of the common pitfalls of its genre? _____
- 3) made the writer wish to lead a life like that of its main character? _____
- 4) depicts relationships resembling those the writer has experienced? _____
- 5) made the writer feel it had helped them to become an adult? _____
- 6) has influenced the writer's own mannerisms? _____
- 7) appealed to the writer because of the way it reflected her own life? _____
- 8) made someone change her plans for the future? _____
- 9) does the writer say she admires despite its flaws? _____
- 10) has strong contrasts in mood? _____

WHICH FILM CHANGED YOUR LIFE?

WE ASKED FOUR WELL-KNOWN WOMEN TO TELL US ABOUT THE FILMS THAT HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THEIR LIVES.

A) *Les Enfants du Paradis*

Paula Rankin, the Oscar-winning actor, told us that her decision to try for a career on the stage was determined by watching this ecer-popular French film when she was a teeanger. 'I had always enjoyed taking part in school drama productions but had been planning to study law. Then my parents took me to see *Les Enfants du Paradis*, set in the theatrical world of 19th-century Paris. Its romance and passion captivated me but it also made me realise that people could devote their adult lives to the theatre. I suddenly knew that I wanted to be part of that world of art and emorion. I can't say my life has in any way resembled that of the heroine of the film, as I perhaps hoped it might, but I've certainly never regretted taking the path it turned me towards.'

B) *East of Eden*

This was the film chosen by popular crime writer, Maria Cruikshank. 'It's certainly not the best film I've ever seen but it had a huge impact on me. It's such a powerful story, based on John Steinbeck's novel about the warring relationship between two brothers at the time of the American Civil War. I saw it when I was about 15 and I've always felt as if that was the day I grew up. I became aware of how tragic life can be ans somehow I felt as if, on leaving the cinema, I had put childish things behind me forever. I must admit that when I see the film these days, it feels rather sentimental. But, even so, the simple camerawork combined with what strikes me now as the innocence of the acting still have the power to move me to tears.'

C) *The Women*

This film was picked by comedian, Teresa Gordon. 'I've loved this film ever since I was 12. It's a 1939 film with an entirely female cast. Even the pictures on the walls are of women. It's about a group of friends, one of whom discovers her hhusban is having an affair. Some of the friends are sympathetic and supportive while others are simply gleeful at having something to talk about. It's hilarious but you can't laugh too much -you'd miss something because it goes such a fast pace. It's also very moving at times. It's taught me a lot about female friendships, prepatng me for the way in which our love for someone doesn't stop us gossiping about them. When I saw a video of my own show the other day I realised I'd borrowed some of my gestures and turns of phrase from my favourite characters in it.'

C) *Paper Moon*

Film director, Amelia Forest, chose this 1970s classic. 'It's an adult film about a little girl in a grown-up world. As a child I didn't spend much time with other children. My mother used to take me to lots of movies and I saw *Paper Moon* first when I was about ten. I felt as if it was speaking directly to me. I loved the tough tenderness in the relationship between the girl and her con-man father. The story is set in the 1930s and many period films tend to idealise the past. This one is clever enough not to do that. It shows how fear and hunger drove people to desperate actions. Of course, I'd no iidea when I first saw it that I'd have a career making films myself, but I'd live to feel that one of my films might move and impress a ten-year-old as much as that one did me'.