

Let everything happen to you; beauty and terror  
Just keep going. No feeling is final

Rainer Marie Rilke



#### A. Introduction:

Jojo Rabbit is a 2019 American comedy-drama film written and directed by Taika Waititi, based on Christine Leunens's book Caging Skies.

#### 1. Historical Background.

Choose the correct word to complete each space in the passage.

World war II (1) \_\_\_\_\_ September 1st 1939 when Germany (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Poland. Britain and France promised to help Poland (3) \_\_\_\_\_ any invader. They (4) \_\_\_\_\_ that Germany's troops should be withdrawn.

Germany (5) \_\_\_\_\_ this demand and on September 3rd 1939 Britain (6) \_\_\_\_\_ war. Mr. Chamberlain, The (7) \_\_\_\_\_, made a radio broadcast explaining (8) \_\_\_\_\_ war was beign declared. The war (9) \_\_\_\_\_ men, women and children in (10) \_\_\_\_\_ German city, town and village.

- |               |              |                |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1) begins     | began        | begun          |
| 2) attacked   | offended     | invade         |
| 3) for        | against      | by             |
| 4) asked      | called       | demanded       |
| 5) listened   | ignored      | answered       |
| 6) called off | declared     | launched       |
| 7) President  | Army general | Prime minister |
| 8) why        | what         | when           |
| 9) helped     | affected     | damage         |
| 10) all       | any          | every          |

#### 2. Vocabulary.

Match the words or phrases with their definitions.

a German word meaning "leader" or "guide". As a political title it is associated with the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler.

#### Jungvolk:

**Gestapo:** A term used in German to refer to empires and kingdoms respectively.

**Reich:** Official Secret Nazi State Police abbreviation of *Geheime Staatspolizei*

**Führer:** The separate pre-army section for boys aged 10 to 14 of the Hitler Youth organisation in Nazi Germany.

#### B. Characters.

Write the names under the pictures.

**Rosie**  
**Freulein Rahm**



**Yorkie**  
**Elsa**



**Jojo**  
**Captain Klenzendorf**





## C. Reading



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### Film review: Jojo Rabbit

By Jada Chavis on November 4, 2019



World War II wasn't funny, but "Jojo Rabbit" is brilliantly comedic. Taika Waititi is a New Zealand filmmaker who not only directed this film, but played Hitler himself. Waititi takes audiences on a very uncanny experience reflecting back on Nazi Germany.

The film follows young, lonely Jojo Betzler played by eleven year old Roman Griffin Davis, **who** discovers his single German mother is hiding a Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his imaginary friend — Adolf Hitler — Jojo confronts his blind nationalism as World War II rages on.

Jojo is eager to show the world how devoted he is to be a Nazi, joining the Hitler Youth camp and turning to **his** imaginary friend when things go wrong. After an injury at the camp, Jojo is forced to stay home while his mother Rosie (played by Scarlett Johansson) works. Roaming around the house one day, Jojo discovers a Jewish teen named Elsa hiding in the walls.

The film portrays an odd rendition of the war through the lenses of a child. By doing **this**, Waititi used innocence as a filter to step away from the gruesome reality of the Holocaust.

In the film, Hitler is seen as a goofy caricature that Jojo shaped by propaganda and little knowledge of life. This is seen as smart and uncomfortably funny, **which** has given the film high praise by critics. However, not all are fond of a movie that seems to create jokes about this dark time in history that the world will never forget.

For starters, the film starts off with real clips of Nazi army parades set to The Beatles "I Want to Hold Your Hand" playing in the background. The interpretation of ditzy Nazis allowed audience members to laugh off the true circumstances.

"At first I was completely confused with the movie," said Asia Brown, a moviegoer. "The jokes and the humorous characters almost made me forget that the Nazis were the enemies."

Jojo Rabbit is a film that will be interpreted differently for each audience member. It may need to be viewed more than once to truly comprehend its meaning.

However, Waititi attempts to push the theme of nationalism, acceptance and love and makes people remember that hate is taught and no one is truly born with **it** in their heart. It mocks the dark time that will never be forgotten, those who hate others based on ethnicity, propaganda and the manipulation those in power wield over the innocent.

No matter the reviews, some of the themes in Jojo Rabbit can be used as a lease on what goes on today in American society.

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### Using referencing to understand a text

**Reference words** link different parts of a text together.

**They** can refer back to a word, a phrase or a whole sentence or idea.

- a) pronouns, for example: he, him, it, they, them, that, this, these, those
- b) possessive adjectives, for example: his, its, their, her
- c) relative pronouns, for example: who, whose, which

### 1. Look at the highlighted words in the text. What do they refer to?

who (p.2):

his (p.3):

this (p. 4):

which (p. 5):

it (p. 9):



**D. Answer the following questions about the movie.**

A – In the dialogue between Jojo and Adolf during the first scenes, we see Adolf resembling Jojo's mind, body and courage with some animals. Write the animals for each of them.

Mind: \_\_\_\_\_ Body: \_\_\_\_\_ Courage: \_\_\_\_\_

C – How does Jojo get injured and get into hospital?

D – Where is Jojo's father?

F. What does Jojo ask Elsa in exchange for not turning her in to the Nazis?

F – Whose quotation is it?

“...One day, you'll make time. You'll think of nothing else. You'll meet someone and spend your days dreaming of the moment you can hold them in your arms again. That's love.”

- a) Jojo      b) Yorkie      c) Elsa      d) Rosie      e) Führer

**E. What did you think of the movie?**

Write your opinion in a short paragraph, say if you would recommend it and why/why not. Finally grade the movie with stars (1-5).

**JOJO RABBIT**

**NOW PLAYING EVERYWHERE**