

2H

Writing  
**Film review**

*I can write a film review.*

1 Read the Writing Strategy and the review. What kind of audience is the TV series suitable for?

- a all ages    b teenagers    c adults

**Writing Strategy**

When you write a film review, you aren't being asked to write a straightforward description but to evaluate the film from a particular point of view, e.g. its suitability for a particular audience, how it affected you, or how it exceeded or failed to meet your expectations.

2 Read the review and match paragraphs A–E with descriptions 1–5.

- 1 the main idea behind the series, and its influences
- 2 an overall impression and a note to readers
- 3 casting and the main characters
- 4 introducing the series and giving some basic facts
- 5 information about the setting and plot

3 Replace the underlined words in the review with the correct form of the words and phrases below.

be disappointed by    enhance    rave reviews    short-listed    superbly cast

4 Complete the sentences with the highlighted words in the review.

- 1 The character of Jack in your play is . He behaves just like all detectives in films.
- 2 Dreamworks' latest  film cost \$65 million to produce.
- 3 The view from here is wonderful. It's just .
- 4 It isn't a  film – there isn't much action at all.
- 5 In the cinema this week there's a  new horror story by the director of *Watching from the Shadows*.
- 6 The film is a very  emotional drama. It makes a lot of people cry.

A language school wants to buy DVDs of a popular TV series for students to borrow and watch in their free time. Write a review of a TV series that you like, mentioning why it's a good series and who it would and wouldn't appeal to.

5 Read the task, then plan your review. Make notes.

- 1 From what point of view are you writing the review?
- 2 What kind of TV series would be suitable?
- 3 What are the strong and weak points of the TV series?
- 4 Who would it appeal to?



**Something for everyone in CREEPY new sci-fi series**

▶ A The second season of American TV series *Stranger Things* has just begun. The first season received 'a lot of praise from critics after it was released in 2016. It has won several awards, including a Screen Actors Guild Award, and was <sup>2</sup>considered for many others.

▶ B The series is set in the 1980s in a small town called Hawkins, Indiana. This very ordinary setting <sup>3</sup>increases the tension by providing a contrast to the weird events that take place there. The first season begins with the disappearance of a teenage boy. Disturbing events begin to unfold when friends and family dig around for clues, taking us on a nail-biting journey into the unknown.

▶ C The series concept is designed to appeal to a broad range of viewers, with its mix of gripping investigative drama, chilling supernatural horror and a touch of sci-fi. The formula owes a lot to film directors like Stephen Spielberg and John Carpenter, but it nicely avoids copying them.

▶ D Many of the leading actors are teenagers, so younger viewers have characters to identify with. Also, most of the teenage and adult actors are <sup>4</sup>very well chosen – particularly Winona Ryder as the tortured mother of the missing boy. However, I <sup>5</sup>didn't like the character of the sheriff, who appears very clichéd.

▶ E To sum up, it's a well-made, big-budget TV series with a powerful concept, a fast-paced plot and some breathtaking special effects. I can recommend the series to both adult and teen viewers – as long as they are prepared for a fright!

6 Write your review in your notebook

**CHECK YOUR WORK**

Have you ...

- organised your review into clear paragraphs?
- given readers a good idea of what the series is about and who it might appeal to?
- introduced and concluded the review?