

Reading

A Imagine the photographs below are stills from films. Look at the photographs and say what kind of film you think each one is and what it is about. Then answer the questions below.



Which three criteria from the list below are most important for you in deciding how good a film is? Why? Why are the others less important?

- plot
- well-known actors
- soundtrack
- special effects
- happy ending
- scenery
- events based on a true story

B Look at the title and read the first two lines of the article. Where might you find this article? What is its purpose and who do you think might read it?

C Read the article and match the photographs in A which you think reflect the content of the films mentioned. Which film appeals to you most? Why?

Word Focus

Use a dictionary to find definitions and /or synonyms for the words below from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1 film buff | 4 unravel |
| 2 footage | 5 pterosaur |
| 3 inundated | |

Film Buff's Guide to the Movies

Whatever your taste in films, National Geographic Entertainment has something for everyone.



Bored with predictable Hollywood blockbusters with sugary-sweet endings and little more substance than 'they met, they fell in love, they lived happily ever after'? Then look out for Nat Geo movies. From moving personal accounts of life in remote countries to exhilarating documentaries on extraordinary pre-historic creatures, you're bound to find what you're looking for. Here are just some of the latest films available to general audiences and film buffs.

Life in a Day is an Oscar-winning film by director Kevin Macdonald in partnership with Ridley Scott's film company, Scott Free UK and YouTube. When YouTube contributors were asked to submit film **footage** of their lives on July 24, 2010, the project's organisers were **inundated** with over 80,000 videos, making up over 4,500 hours of deeply personal, powerful moments shot by contributors worldwide. Macdonald and his team sifted through these videos and pasted them together to create a remarkable feature-length film. The film shows – with beauty, humour and joyful honesty – what it's like to be alive on Earth today.

The First Grader is a heart-warming and inspiring true story of one man's battle to gain the education he had been so long denied. Set in a small, remote mountain-top primary school in the Kenyan Bush, the film **unravels** the story of Maruge (Oliver Litondo), an old Mau Mau veteran in his 80s, desperate to learn to read and write. Maruge's application, while receiving the support of head teacher Jane Obinchi (Naomie Harris), faces fierce opposition from parents who don't want to see a place in the school wasted on such an old man. *The First Grader* is for viewers aged 13 and over.

Flying Monsters 3D, with Sir David Attenborough, is a groundbreaking film that uses cutting-edge 3D filming technology to bring the story of giant flying monsters and their pre-historic

E Match the definitions with these phrases.

cutting-edge groundbreaking heart-warming
heart-rending state-of-the-art sugary-sweet

- 1 causing feelings of happiness

- 2 making new discoveries

- 3 excessively sentimental

- 4 causing feelings of sadness

- 5 using the latest technology

- 6 the most advanced stage in the making of something

For questions 1 – 6, read the passage below. Then select which answer (a, b, c or d) fills the blank.

- 1 The writer claims Nat Geo films will appeal
 - a mainly to fans of Hollywood films.
 - b especially to audiences who enjoy love stories.
 - c only to film buffs.
 - d to people of all tastes in films.
- 2 *Life in a Day* was
 - a produced in only one day.
 - b directed by Ridley Scott.
 - c filmed by ordinary people all over the world.
 - d posted on YouTube.
- 3 In *The First Grader*, Maruge comes in for criticism because
 - a some people feel he doesn't deserve a place at the school.
 - b he enlists the support of the school's head teacher.
 - c he's still illiterate at the age of 80.
 - d he refused to go to school when he was younger.
- 4 What do *The First Grader* and *Desert Flower* have in common?
 - a They both portray people who built a new life for themselves abroad.
 - b They relate the struggles of real people.
 - c They use amazing special effects.
 - d They are unsuitable for under 13-year-olds.
- 5 Which film is a documentary that has been produced like a science fiction film?
 - a *U23D*
 - b *Life in a Day*
 - c *Flying Monsters 3D*
 - d *The First Grader*
- 6 What does the writer confess about *Desert Flower*?
 - a It promotes arranged marriages.
 - b It has fairy-tale like qualities.
 - c It isn't for the faint-hearted.
 - d It glamorises the fashion industry.

world to life. Around 220 million years ago, dinosaurs were dominant on Earth. Control of the skies, however, fell to another group of reptiles – the **pterosaurs**. The story of how and why these incredible creatures managed to defy gravity and take to the air seems to be more fantastical than fiction. If you're a fan of state-of-the-art films, then *Flying Monsters* is for you. Thanks to 3-D CGI (Computer-Generated Imagery), these spectacular creatures are recreated and we are invited into their world! Hailed by reviewers as 'the future of concert films' and 'an explosive, all access U2 concert pass', *U23D* sets out to capture the relationship between the band members of pop's supergroup U2. The film, which was shot in South America during U2's *Vertigo* tour there, was made using the largest collection of 3D camera technology ever used on one project. The result is electrifying! Viewers find themselves immersed in the ecstatic world of a live U2 stadium concert.

Desert Flower is the heart-rending tale of Waris Dirie (Liya Kebede), who at the tender age of 13, fled her family's nomadic camp in the Somalian desert. The daring teenager wanted to avoid being married off as fourth wife to a man old enough to be her grandfather. Having made her way through the desert, she manages to track down relatives in Mogadishu, the Somali capital. They arrange work for her as a servant in the Somali embassy in London. She attracts the attention of Terry Donaldson, the famous fashion photographer. He opens the doors to a completely different world and Dirie soon becomes a well-known fashion model. Admittedly, it all sounds like a too-good-to-be-true Cinderella story, but Dirie's life is based on the true story of a supermodel who made her way from the deserts of Somalia to the famous catwalks in the world.

Vocabulary

A Complete the sentences with these words.

aisles backstage foyer interval
row set usher wings

- The action took place on a minimalist _____ made up of an armchair and a floor lamp.
- I'll meet you in the _____ half an hour before the play starts.
- We didn't have good seats; they were in a(n) _____ at the back of the theatre.
- After the show, Tom went _____ to see if he could get a few autographs.
- The actor anxiously waited in the _____ before walking onto the stage.
- It was a wonderful musical and the audience was dancing in the _____!
- Do we have enough time to get a drink during the _____?
- We were shown to our seats by a(n) _____.

B Read the *Exam Close-up*. Then complete the *Exam Task* below.



Exam Task

For questions 1 – 6, read the text below and decide which answer (a, b, c or d) best fits each gap.

Action or Rom-com?

Do you prefer guy movies like *Mission: Impossible*, or (1) _____ flicks like *Twilight*? What is it about fast cars and exploding buildings that (2) _____ to men? Why do women enjoy love stories, tear-jerkers and (3) _____ of woe? For Hollywood (4) _____ bosses it doesn't matter what the reasons are; they're just glad such exploitable differences exist. For example, they know that a romantic comedy will be more successful if it is (5) _____ in time for Valentine's Day. And while films like *P.S. I Love You* and *One Day* tug at the (6) _____ of every woman, sports films about underdogs such as *Dodgeball* and *Remember the Titans* seem to be more popular with men. Why? Well, there's something about ordinary people overcoming all the obstacles to triumph that appeals to men.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 a chic | b chick | c chicken | d hen |
| 2 a attracts | b appeals | c applies | d allures |
| 3 a tells | b tails | c tales | d talks |
| 4 a studio | b set | c stage | d theatre |
| 5 a revealed | b reviewed | c released | d rehearsed |
| 6 a heartstrings | b heart rate | c heartthrob | d heartbeat |

Word formation

C Complete the text with the correct form of the words.

To Kill a Mockingbird

The American Film Institute (AFI) regularly compiles lists which rank the best films and (1) _____. For example, there are the best feature-length films by genre such as western, sports, (2) _____, romantic comedy, mystery, fantasy, science fiction, gangster, courtroom drama and epic.

Courtroom drama is a genre in which a system of justice plays a crucial role in the film's (3) _____. The film deemed by the AFI to be the best courtroom drama is the 1962 classic, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel by author Harper Lee. It is the story of a lawyer in a(n) (4) _____ divided Alabama town in the 1930s, who agrees to defend a young black man accused of attacking a white woman. Gregory Peck won an Academy Award for Best Actor for his (5) _____ of the lawyer, Atticus Finch.

PERFORM

ANIMATE

NARRATE

RACE

PORTRAY



Compound nouns

D Complete the sentences with these words.

festival fright lead night ovation rehearsal
role room

- 1 The actress was in her dressing _____ having her costume fitted.
- 2 Emma Watson was the female _____ in the *Harry Potter* films.
- 3 Rupert played the title _____ in our school production of *Macbeth*.
- 4 She hated performing because she suffered from terrible stage _____.
- 5 The dress _____ went smoothly and the director was pleased with the cast.
- 6 Many famous critics were invited to the film _____ to act as judges.
- 7 Of course, all of the cast were nervous on opening _____.
- 8 The actors received a standing _____ for their excellent performance.

Prepositions

E Complete the sentences with these prepositions.

at by in (x3) on to without

- 1 A lot of people _____ showbiz tend to dress flamboyantly.
- 2 They filmed the scene with the animals and, luckily, it went off _____ a hitch.
- 3 The actor remained _____ character after the filming and continued to speak with a British accent!
- 4 A teacher _____ profession, Julie was offered a part in a film and became a star!
- 5 No one was allowed _____ the set apart from the cast, the crew and the director.
- 6 During the party scene, the extras were told to walk around _____ the background.
- 7 The play ended _____ the accompaniment of wild applause from the audience.
- 8 _____ a moment's notice, the understudy had to replace the star who had come down with the flu.