

Part 4 (8 points, 1 point per item). Read the review of the latest adaptation of 'The Jungle Book', the 2017 Oscar Winner for Visual Effects. For questions 43–50, complete the answers by inserting **no more than one word** from the text. There is an example (0).

Review: The Jungle Book

Advances in technology come fast these days. In cinema, it seems every few years brings new innovations either to the art of filmmaking or the way we consume movies. Yet certain moments stand out as major shifts in the landscape, introducing huge leaps that redefine audience expectations about what is possible on the big screen. *Star Wars* and *Avatar* provided obvious milestone moments in the past 20 years, drawing clear lines between what came before and after. Meanwhile, films like *Gravity* changed our conception of what 'hyper-realism' means in visual effects. Disney's *The Jungle Book* will introduce audiences to another milestone moment, and it will take their breath away.

An adaptation of several of the chapters comprising author J. R. Kipling's larger collected work titled *The Jungle Book*, this new film has much in common with the original Disney animated musical film adaptation from 1967. That earlier film has been released several times over the decades. Director Jon Favreau has a keen eye for what to retain and what to let go in crafting his new adaptation of the story.

When you see the movie, you will find yourself doubting the veracity of the following claim, but it is a fact: nothing in this movie is real except for the young actor Neel Sethi – everything else is entirely animated. The film was shot on a blue set with blue props that could be replaced with the complex computer world and animals. Trust me, at some point while watching the film, you're going to think that what you are watching must have been shot in real life.

That's how convincingly the effects are portrayed, and the marvel of it is not just in the more obvious bigger moments, but rather in the smallest and simplest little details of the real world that make their way into the film. If you look around in the background, you'll see things like mosquitoes barely visible in the light filtering through the dense jungle foliage, occasional leaves drifting in a breeze, light reflecting in the eyes of small birds, and so on. It is in such tiny details that the film will win over your perceptions so much that you stop noticing you're watching visual effects and begin to accept everything you see as genuine.

All of that on a budget of \$175 million. *The Jungle Book* should prove a sound investment for Disney, as the film appears destined to make back that budget many times over.

Internationally, this film should be huge, and I think it will top *Maleficent*'s \$758 million tally from 2014. I am loath to try to predict too much beyond that right now, simply because the only outlier in that regard is *Alice in Wonderland*, and I want to avoid 'billion-bucks fever' mentality. That said, *The Jungle Book* has so much going for it in terms of the classic story, the appeal to foreign audiences, and the stunning imagery that will make it a must-see picture.

The Jungle Book is a gorgeous film. From this moment on, it will be hard if not impossible to accept less impressive visual effects for animals and locations, now that we know what's possible. What *Gravity* did for hyper-realism in outer space effects, *The Jungle Book* has done for depicting life on our planet. You've never seen visual effects like this before, so real that they transcend themselves and become invisible, allowing the story and performances to propel the film.

0. What is the role of technologies in film making?

They introduce innovations both to film production and the audience.

43. Why are *Star Wars* and *Avatar* considered to be important?

They are _____ markers that show the boundary between the past and present.

44. Why is Jon Favreau's work as a director rated highly by the reviewer?

He was skilfully able to _____ or leave out moments from the older adaptation.

45. What is the distinctive feature of the film?

The film makers _____ nearly everything.

46. Why does the reviewer value the effects and details in the background?

The real _____ lies in the level of precise detail.

47. Why is the critic fascinated by the way natural details are shown in the film?

He believes they look _____.

48. What is his opinion about the amount of money spent on making the film?

He thinks it is a _____ way to spend the budget.

49. Why is the film predicted to achieve worldwide success?

Cinema-goers will appreciate the _____ visual impact.

50. What is the role of the visual effects in telling the story?

They are created so skilfully that they allow the plot and actors to _____ the movie.