**MOVIE REVIEW**

**BEFORE THE MOVIE:**

Go to [**http://www.imdb.com/**](http://www.imdb.com/) and find the following information for the movie you are writing.

1. Director: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. Cast

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Character Actor

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**DURING THE MOVIE:**

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| Intended **Audience** (Who do you think would enjoy this movie?) |

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| Description of Main **Characters** (appearance, personality, actions, interactions with one another, and so on)      **1** |

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| --- |
| **Plot** Line (sequence of events) |

**AFTER THE MOVIE:**

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| **Consider** :  Did you like the movie or not? What rating would you give the movie? What spoilers might ruin the movie for others if you wrote about them? What is the theme/message or moral of this movie? Write down your initial thoughts and reactions.  **2** |

**MOVIE REVIEW TEMPLATE FRAMEWORK**

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| **TITLE**  Write a catchy, interesting title indicating whether you liked or disliked the title or not. Include the title of the movie (try to use a pun!)  EXAMPLES:  “Ouch! ‘Ouija’ Just Hurt My Eyes”  “‘Sniper’ is Dead On”  Note: DON’T FORGET that movie titles are written within “quotation marks!” |

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| **PARAGRAPH #1**  **Introduce** the movie by stating that you’ve just seen this movie and would like to give an opinion about it. Mention a couple of **details** that might help the reader understand what **type of movie** you are talking about.  Begin to write a **summary** of the plot. Where and when did this movie take place? Consider the **setting, characters, and conflict**. At the end this paragraph, you should include **your point of view** of this movie (positive or negative). Make sure you do not give any spoilers!      **3** |

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| **PARAGRAPH #2**: Talk about the **positive** things in the film and **why** you liked these things. Use **descriptive words** to talk about the story, setting, effects and music. Be sure to include specific details and scenes. |

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| **PARAGRAPH #3**: Talk about the **negative** things in the film and **why** you disliked these things. Be sure to include specific **details** and scenes      **4**  **PARAGRAPH #4**: Talk about the **characterization.** Did the actors portray the characters well? Why was their portrayal good or bad? Was the viewer able to (or not) relate to certain characters? Were the characters believable? Realistic? Developed? |

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| **PARAGRAPH #5**: Write **general comments** that summarize your view of the movie. Let your viewer know if they **should or should not see this film**. What group of people would like this movie? Who would you recommend it to? Who would you not recommend it to? What’s the MPAA rating of the movie (G, PG, PG-13, R, etc…)? What is your final word on the film: Is it good or bad? **Give the movie a score**. You can do grades (A,B,C,D,F+ or -), stars (\*\*\* out of \*\*\*\*\*), numbers (3 out of 5) or something totally original… just don’t use “thumbs up” or “thumbs down.”  **5** |

**HELPFUL VOCABULARY**

- spectacular visual effects – excessive violence – breathtaking – evocative – mood – atmosphere

- poorly – unsuccessful – detail –scenery – irresistible – perfect – plot – moments – this movie has been compared to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, wonderful – hilarious – momentum – unexpected plot twists – unbelievable – hype – phenomenal – suspense – disappointing – fake –genre – unoriginal – typical – thrilling –classic – captivating –riveting – breathtaking

**MOVIE REVIEW EXAMPLE**

TITLE: **“My Dog Skip” will have you skipping to the theater**

Everyone remembers their childhood dogs and the impact they’ve had on their life. Perhaps one dog in particular sticks out in your mind… a special dog that was there for you in the toughest or best years of your life. That is what this screen adaptation of Willie Morris’ “My Dog Skip” conveys in a fun, nostalgic and heartbreaking kind of way. Morris recounts the autobiographical memoir of his childhood in Yazoo City, Mississippi and the four-legged friend that accompanied him on his journey into manhood.

Set in the backdrop of the war-torn world of the 1940’s, young Willie (Frankie Muniz) is on the verge of his ninth birthday. His only real friend, neighbor and high school sports hero Dink Jenkins (Luke Wilson) goes off and fight in WWII, leaving Willie feeling alone in the world. To lift Willie’s spirits, his mother (Diane Lane) decides to defy the wishes of his stern father (Kevin Bacon) and buy Willie a Jack Russell terrier puppy. The unusually smart and charismatic dog Skip quickly becomes a local institution and helps Willie gain respect, make friends and even win over his first girlfriend. Kevin Bacon and Diane Lane’s characters were strong, but didn’t get enough screen time to fully develop. Willie’s friendship with a young black boy was never given a chance to develop either, probably in an effort by the filmmakers to avoid focusing on the segregation issues of the time period. The attention to detail and the accuracy of the time period are phenomenal. I felt completely immersed in this world and felt the full effect of this moving story. Even the southern accents were much better than average.

The message of this film is very clear and invokes plenty of nostalgia to anyone who can identify growing up in a rural town. It’s about passing into adulthood, remembering old friends long gone, and the desire to remember or relive happy moments in our lives that may be fading from our memory. Morris is certainly a master at preserving his own memories by writing it down for others to enjoy. I truly believe that this story is his gift, not only to the people of Mississippi, but to all who want to remember their past, and the friends they left behind.

This movie is PG, a rating which might run off some of the older crowd, but it’s truly a movie for everyone. Most films geared for children these days depend on lame, pop-culture references and gas-passing jokes in a patronizing attempt to entertain the younger masses. This movie rises above all of that to become one of the most watchable non-Disney film for children since 1993’s “Searching for Bobby Fischer.” Your date might resist going, but try to talk them into it. They won’t regret it and neither will you.

Scale of 1-5:

**4 ½**

**This framework was l based on**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ-k9XPPc1g**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQ-k9XPPc1g)

**6**