

Conversation Topic for May 7: Movie Review “My Octopus Teacher”



MY OCTOPUS TEACHER

For our May 7, 2021 meeting we will review a movie. The class selected the movie “My Octopus Teacher.” This movie recently won the Academy Award for “Best Documentary Feature.”

The movie is available to view on Netflix. Please watch the movie before our class, and come prepared with some questions and comments. To get your conversations started I have included some questions (listed below). You can also use “The 5 W’s Questions” to summarize the movie and add your thoughts and feelings (also listed below).

Here is a description of the movie from Netflix: “A filmmaker forges an unusual friendship with an octopus living in a South African kelp forest, learning as the animal shares her world.”

If you do not have Netflix, or do not have the time this week to view the movie, that is ok. You can participate in the discussion by listening to the others, and asking them questions about the movie. The goal, as always, is to practice English fluency. We want to listen and understand others, and to speak and be understood by others.

Here are some questions to help you discuss the movie:

1. What is the name of the movie?
2. What is the genre of this movie?
3. Where is the setting of the movie?
4. Who are the main characters?

5. What was the plot of the movie?
6. What did you learn?
7. What was your favorite scene?
8. How did the movie make you feel?
9. Would you recommend this movie to others?
10. How would you rate this movie using the "star scale"?
(1 star = bad, 5 stars = best)

Here are some common English vocabulary words for movies:

action movie (noun): a movie with many exciting and violent scenes - *Our teenage boys love watching action movies.*

cast (noun): all the actors and actresses in a movie or TV show - *It had a good cast, but the story wasn't very interesting.*

character (noun): one of the people in a story - *Harry likes movies with lots of interesting and unusual characters.*

cinema (noun): a place where movies are shown on a big screen - *Let's meet in front of the cinema just before the movie starts.*

comedy (noun): a film with lots of funny scenes - *Let's see a comedy and have a good laugh.*

director (noun): the person in charge of making a movie - *The director gets really angry when actors forget their lines.*

documentary (noun): a film that's about real people, events or issues - *How can you eat junk food after seeing that documentary *Super Size Me*?*

drama (noun): a movie about realistic characters in dramatic situations - *Maria loves legal dramas with lots of courtroom scenes.*

entertainment (noun): enjoyment from movies, concerts, TV shows, etc. - *Airlines offer plenty of entertainment on their flights these days.*

family movie (noun): a movie that both children and adults can enjoy - *Which entertainment company made the family movies Cinderella and 101 Dalmatians?*

film (noun): another word for "movie" (also "motion picture") - *This year's Academy Award for Best Picture was won by a British film.*

genre (noun): a kind or style of music, movie, TV show, painting, etc. - *For film class we had to compare movies from two different genres, such as comedy and horror.*

horror movie (noun): a movie that frightens and shocks people - *If you love horror movies, you've got to see Fright Night.*

movie star (noun): a very popular movie actor or actress - *Movie stars earn millions of dollars every time they play a role.*

plot (noun): the series of events that form the main story - *It was a good film, but the plot was difficult to follow at times.*

scene (noun): a small part of a film - *The opening scene showed a young man leaving prison and walking to a bus stop.*

sci-fi (or "science fiction") (noun): *a genre with stories set in the future or in outer space - Have you seen that sci-fi film Interstellar yet?*

screen (noun): *the flat surface that a movie is projected onto - Do you like sitting at the back, or close to the screen?*

"The 5 W's Questions"

1. **Who** -was involved? Who was the story about?
2. **What** happened? What is the story mainly about?
3. **When** did it happen? Date, month, day, year, season, etc.?
4. **Where** did it happen? Country, city, in nature, etc.
5. **Why** did it happen? Are there specific reasons the story happened?