

From Page to Screen

Learning Comprehension with Movies

5th
Grade



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From Page to Screen: Learning Comprehension with Movies

A great story can be told in many different ways. This reading comprehension workbook is all about movies and the books that inspired them. As kids study how five stories jumped from the page to the silver screen, they'll practice important language and reading skills like summarizing, paraphrasing, and story structure. Movies are all about collaboration, so we encourage parents and kids to explore this workbook together. Head to your local library, a bookstore, or an online retailer of books and home videos to grab these books and movies:

Bridge to Terabithia

Book: Author: Katherine Paterson. Published: 1977
Film: Director: Gábor Csupó. Released: 2007

Coraline

Book: Author: Neil Gaiman. Published: 2002
Film: Director: Henry Selick. Released: 2009

To Kill a Mockingbird

Book: Author: Harper Lee. Published: 1960
Film: Director: Robert Mulligan. Released: 1962

Ender's Game

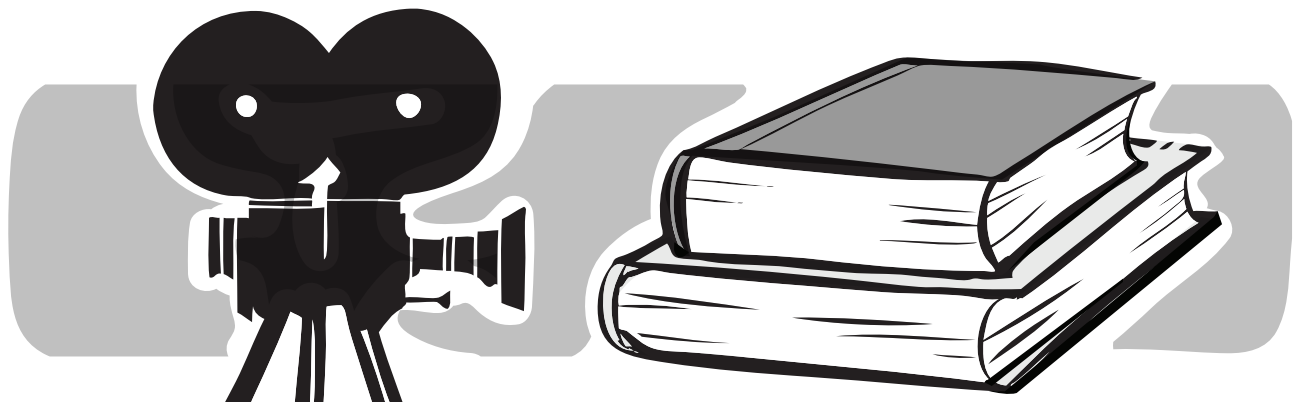
Book: Author: Orson Scott Card. Published: 1985
Film: Director: Gavin Hood. Released: 2013

The Hobbit

Book: Author: J.R.R. Tolkien. Published: 1937
Film (The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey): Director: Peter Jackson. Released: 2012



In general, you'll want to read the book first, then watch the movie. Action!



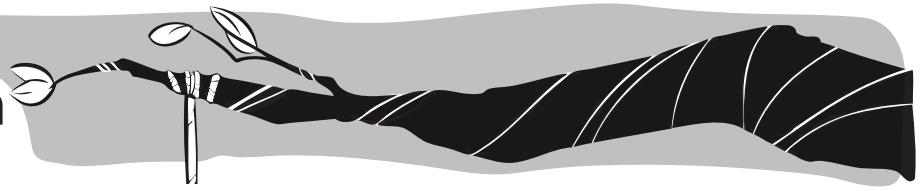
Picture It!

Before watching the movie, draw a picture below of what you think Terabithia looks like.



Now watch the movie! Does the Terabithia in the movie look like what you had imagined? Write down your thoughts of the film's depiction of Terabithia.

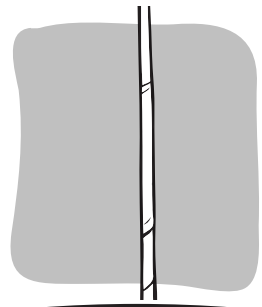
Page versus Screen



Many things factor into filmmakers' decisions to make their movie different from the book, whether it's cutting out a scene, adding a character, altering the dialogue, or even completely changing an ending. They might do it for budget reasons—not enough money to film everything the way they would like—or for the sake of the run time—few people want to watch a four-hour movie.

Compare and contrast **Bridge to Terabithia** as a book and as a movie. Then decide how well you like each version of the story!

BOOK:
AUTHOR:
YEAR:



MOVIE:
DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER:
YEAR:

SIMILARITIES

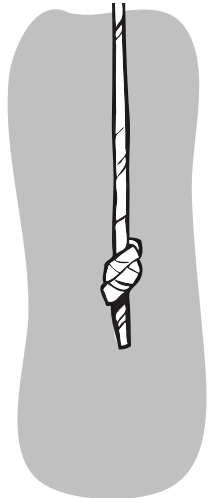
DIFFERENCES

Ex: The ending

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]



Ex: Character's choices

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

[Empty box]

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **RATING** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Cinema Magic: CGI

It's hard to forget the squirrels that turned into scary squogres in the magical land of Terabithia. Did you know that all the squirrels in the movie were pre-recorded and digitally added in? This is because there are no squirrels in New Zealand, where the movie was filmed.

Thanks to CGI, or computer-generated imagery, filmmakers can now realistically bring to life the wildest, most stunning creatures imaginable. CGI can change and add anything from weather elements to a crowd of thousands to action sequences like a city bursting into flames.



A movie's CGI can be made by a team of artists or just one person performing multiple roles. It starts with the artist drawing something, like a squogre, on a computer. She then "sculpts" it in 3-D using a sophisticated computer program. At this point, the squogre is like a clay statue, three-dimensional but gray.

Next, the artist uses a computer program to paint the squogre, a complex process that involves not just choosing colors but also textures—is it bumpy or smooth, shiny or dull, transparent or opaque? All these things change around as light hits and bounces off the creature in different ways.

Even though the squogre isn't a real creature, the artist must make it move like one in order for it to look realistic. That means creating its bone and muscle structure and accounting for things like gravity, even in a digital space. (After all, the squogre can't fly through the air like a paper airplane.) Finally, the artist expertly blends the squogre into the scene so you can't tell it apart from the real things and people!



(CONTINUED)

Cinema Magic: CGI

Use this chart to jot down 5 instances from the film you think may be CGI.

Identify: This box is for the thing, place, or event you suspect is computer generated.

Verify: Look it up on-line to check, or state what gave it away.

Think: Maybe it was cost, danger, weather; what's your opinion for why they went CGI?

IDENTIFY (WHAT IS IT?)					
VERIFY (IS IT CGI?)	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO	YES / NO
THINK (WHY DO YOU THINK THE FILMMAKERS CHOSE CGI?)					



Coraline

Enter the Other World

“She picked at her teeth with a long crimson-varnished fingernail, then she tapped the finger, gently, tap-tap-tap against the polished black surface of her black button eyes.”

At first, Coraline was entranced with the other world and with the other mother and father. They looked like her real parents, just ... different.

Imagine other world versions of you and your family. Draw them below!



Fantasylands: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Compare and contrast the fantasylands in **Coraline** and **The Bridge to Terabithia**. Both start out as places the characters can escape to. How does each of these places change for the characters in the two books and movies?



The snow in the movie Coraline is made from superglue and baking soda!



The main Coraline puppet stands 9.5 inches high.



One crew member's job was just to knit miniature sweaters and other clothing for the puppets.

The Magic of Stop Motion

What it is: Stop motion is an animation technique that involves many objects and photographs. The objects, such as puppets, are moved incrementally, photographed after each movement, and finally the photos are played in sequence so the dolls look like they move on their own. For example, 28 different puppets were created to bring Coraline to life! Every move she makes is actually a series of photos.

As you can imagine, this takes a lot of work! The animation team produced 90 to 100 seconds of animation each week. With so much work involved in stop-motion animation, why do you think the filmmakers chose this technique to tell the story of *Coraline*?



If you were making the movie *Coraline*, would you also have chosen stop motion or picked something else, like hand-drawn animation or live action? Why?

Coraline Crossword, Claymation & More

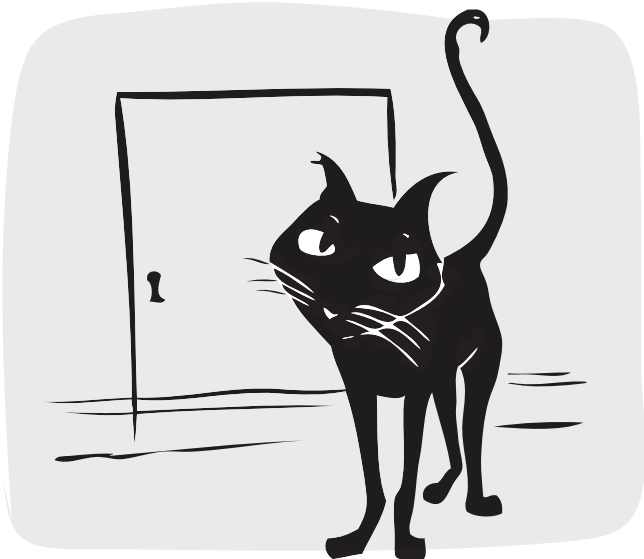
DOWN

1. The length of a film.
2. An American director, producer, and writer known for his stop-motion films such as ***The Nightmare Before Christmas***, ***James and the Giant Peach***, and ***Coraline***.
3. Another term for clay animation, a form of stop-motion animation. The objects and characters are sculpted from clay, then arranged on a set to be photographed.
5. The following of one thing after another.



ACROSS

4. A place existing only in the imagination; a dream world.
5. An animation technique that uses mainly photography and objects, such as puppets. The characters and objects are moved little by little, photographed after each movement, and finally the photos are played in sequence to give the illusion of movement.
6. A British author who wrote ***Coraline*** as well as other novels, comic books, graphic novels, and films.
7. The process of creating animated cartoons, which are static images played rapidly so they seem to be moving.

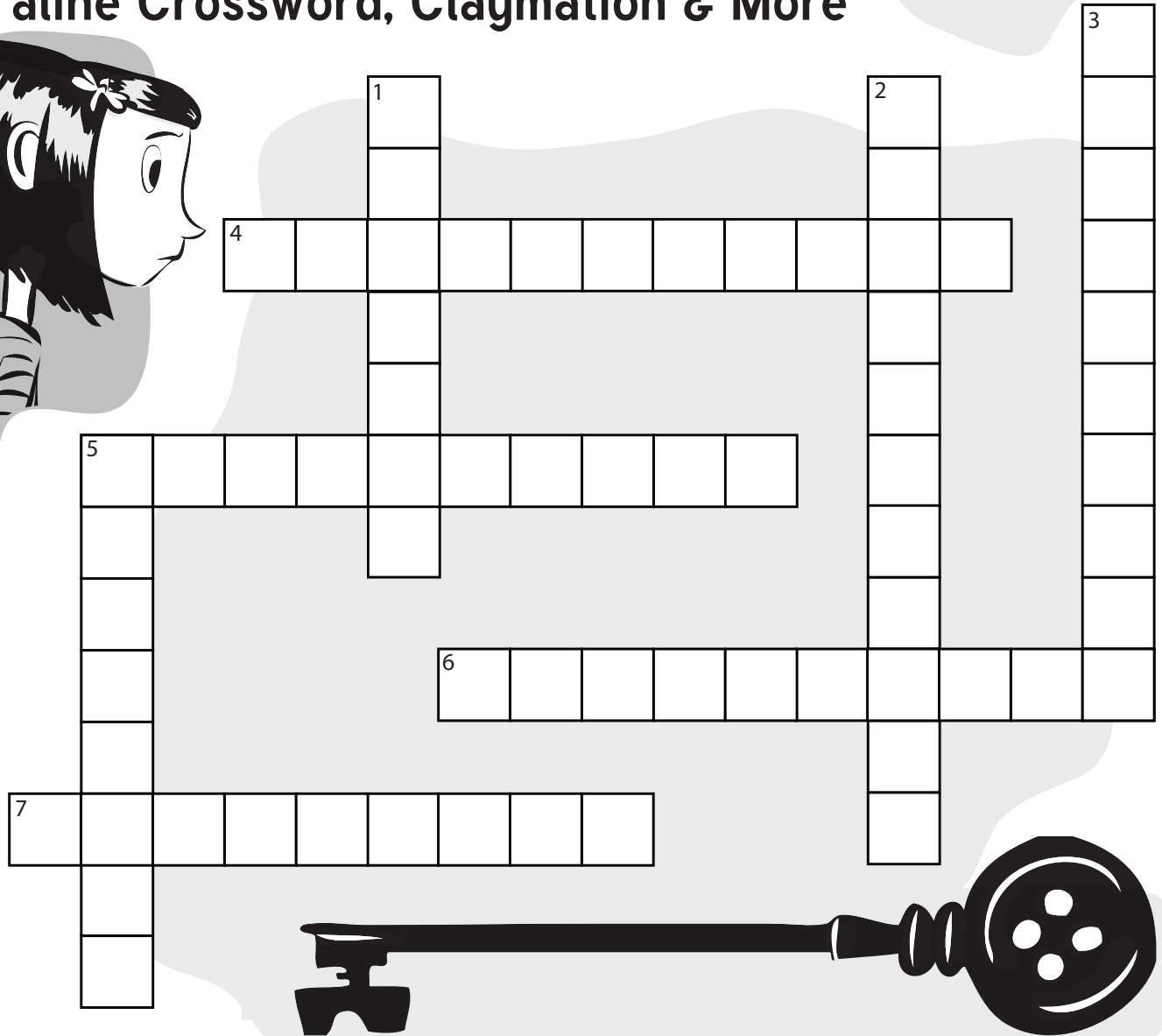
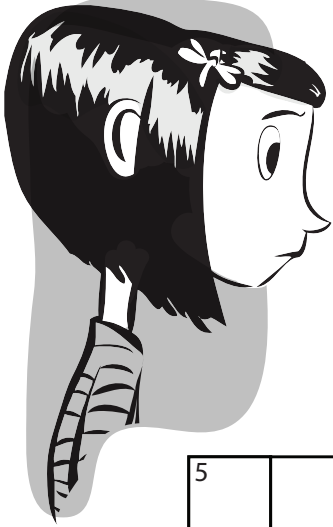


WORD BANK

Animation	Henry Selick
Stop Motion	Claymation
Run Time	Sequence
Neil Gaiman	Fantasyland

(CONTINUED)

Coraline Crossword, Claymation & More



Love *Coraline*? Check out these other stop-motion animated movies!

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993): Like *Coraline*, this story is a dark fantasy made using puppets. Jack Skellington is the king of Halloween Town, where it's Halloween the whole year round. But what happens when he discovers a place called ... Christmas Town?

Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (2005): Based on a classic British television series, Wallace and Gromit are an eccentric inventor and his super smart dog. In this movie, they're trying to track down a mutant rabbit. All the puppets used are made of clay for a special type of stop motion called Claymation.

Frankenweenie (2012): You know the story of Frankenstein, but what about *Frankenweenie*, the tale of a beloved dog brought back to life? Watch this funny and touching story about a boy and his dog told through black-and-white stop-motion animation.

Screenplay: It Starts on the Page

Just like a book, a movie is born in words on a page. When a book is going to be turned into a movie, the story is rewritten as a screenplay, which contains dialogue, descriptions of the setting, and instructions to the actors. Read an excerpt from the screenplay of *To Kill a Mockingbird* below.

INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM - DINING ROOM

It is comfortably, but unpretentiously, furnished. There is a sofa and two over-stuffed chairs and a rocker in the room. Through an alcove, one can see the dining room. The table is set for dinner and Jem, Scout, and Walter are there with Atticus. Cal is serving the food.

ATTICUS

I hope it's a dinner you like.

Walter looks down at his plate. There are string beans, roast, cornbread, turnips, and rice. Walter looks at Atticus.

WALTER

Yes, sir. I don't know when I've had roast. We've been having lots of squirrels and rabbits lately. My pa and I go hunting in our spare time.

JEM

You got a gun of your own?

WALTER

Uh huh.

JEM

How long you had a gun?

WALTER

A year or so.

(he looks at Atticus)

Can I have the syrup, please?

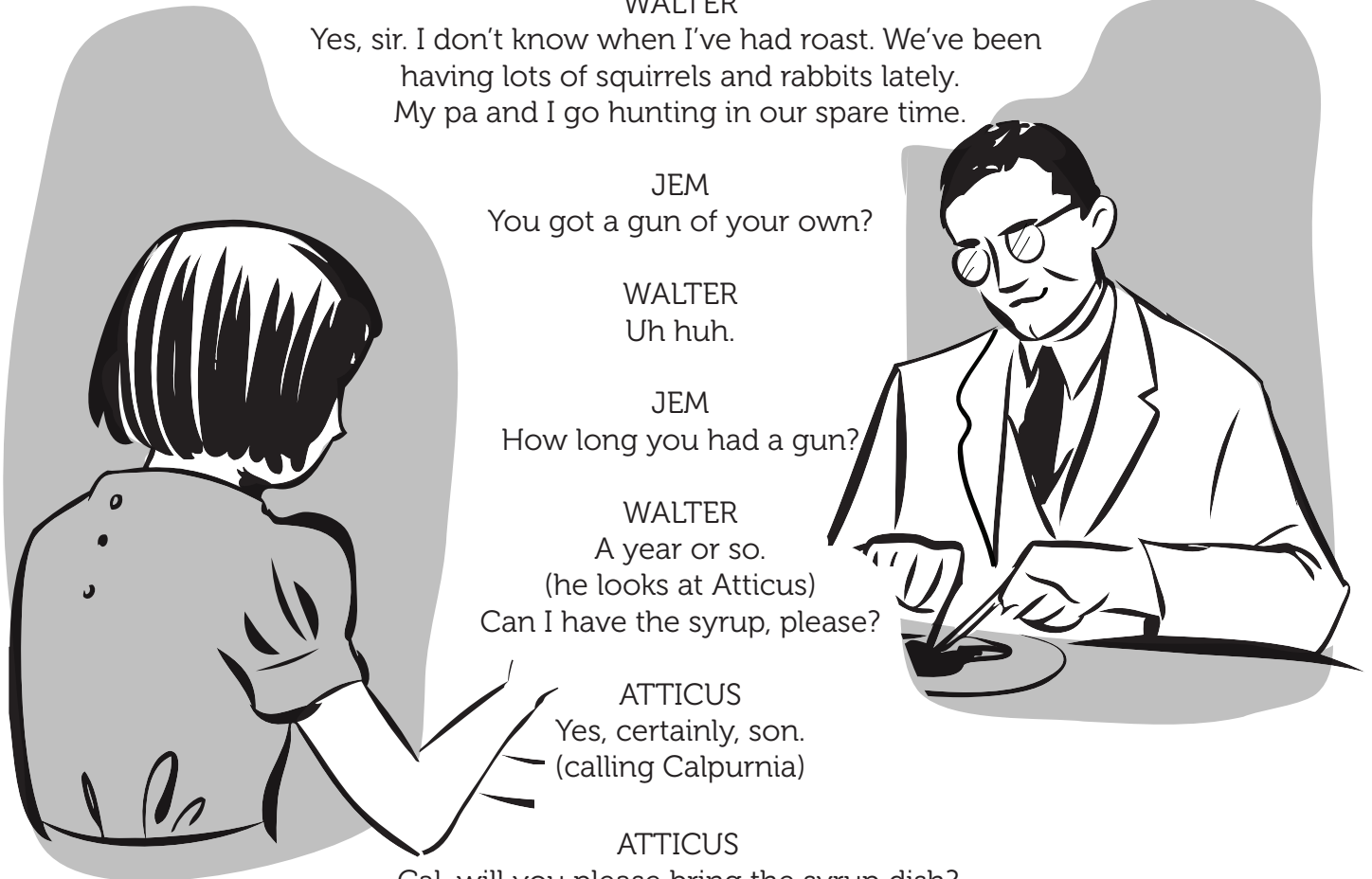
ATTICUS

Yes, certainly, son.

(calling Calpurnia)

ATTICUS

Cal, will you please bring the syrup dish?



(CONTINUED)

Screenplay: It Starts on the Page (continued)

CALPURNIA (O.S.)

Yes, sir.

JEM

Atticus, how old were you when you got your first gun?

ATTICUS

Thirteen or fourteen. I remember when my daddy gave me the gun, he told me: "Never point at anything in the house," and that he'd rather I'd just shoot tin cans in the backyard. But he said sooner or later, he supposed, the temptation to go after birds would be too much and to shoot all the blue jays I wanted if I could hit them. But to remember, it was a sin to kill a mockingbird.

JEM

Why?

ATTICUS

Well, I reckon because mockingbirds don't do anything but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat people's gardens, they don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. Anyway, that's why I think it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.

(to Scout)

How did you like school, Scout?

SCOUT

(noncommittally)

All right.



Calpurnia COMES INTO the dining room with the syrup dish.

(CONTINUED)

Screenplay: It Starts on the Page (continued)

ATTICUS

Walter would like it, please, Cal.

Calpurnia takes the syrup dish to him and he begins to pour it liberally all over his food.

ANGLE - SCOUT

She is watching this process. She makes a face of disgust.

SCOUT

What in the Sam Hill are you doing, Walter?

The silver saucer clatters as he places the pitcher on it and he quickly puts his hands in his lap and ducks his head. Atticus shakes his head at Scout to keep quiet.



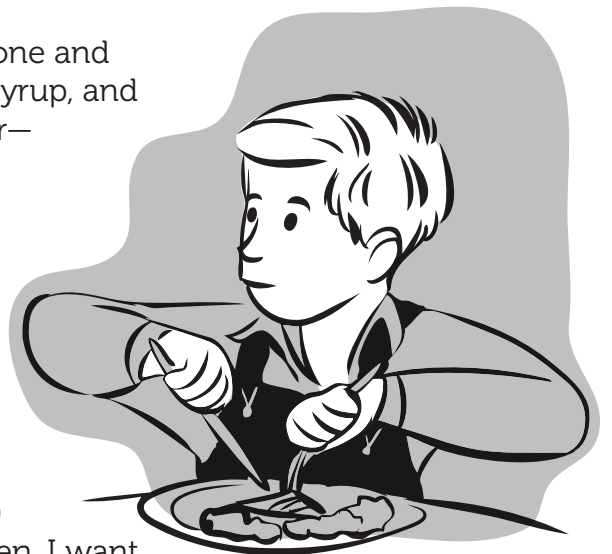
SCOUT

But, Atticus, he has gone and drowned his dinner in syrup, and poured it all over—

CALPURNIA
(interrupting)
Scout.

SCOUT
What?

CALPURNIA
(she is furious)
You march in that kitchen. I want to talk to you.



Scout eyes her suspiciously, sees she is in no mood to be trifled with, and goes out to the kitchen. Calpurnia stalks after her.



(CONTINUED)

Screenplay: It Starts on the Page (continued)

Review

As you watch the movie, keep a lookout for this scene to see how the writing gets turned into a movie.

What does "INT. FINCH LIVING ROOM - DINING ROOM" mean? Why does the scene start with this information?

Why are some words in all capital letters and others in parentheses?

Vocabulary:

O.S. – Off screen

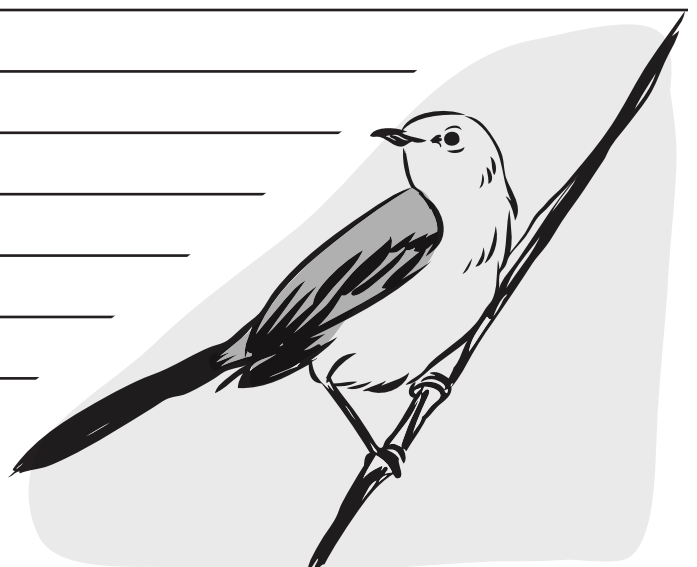
Pretentious – Making claim to distinction or importance, especially when undeserved or exaggerated



To Kill a Mockingbird

Adapt a Scene

Pick a scene from the book that was NOT included in the movie. Write a screenplay of that scene and gather family and friends to help you bring it to life. You can play any role you like: director, camera operator, actor, or even costume designer. Try out multiple roles to see how you like them!



What's in a Title?

Author Harper Lee gives us a few clues as to why she titled her novel ***To Kill a Mockingbird***. The important thing to know is that the mockingbird is not always literally a bird: it is a **symbol**, meaning that it represents a person or an idea. It's a way for the author to send you, the reader, a message that's woven into the story. The questions below will help you think about the symbol of the mockingbird. Try looking in both the book and the movie for the answers.

Refer back to the excerpt of the screenplay. According to Atticus, why is it a sin to kill a mockingbird?

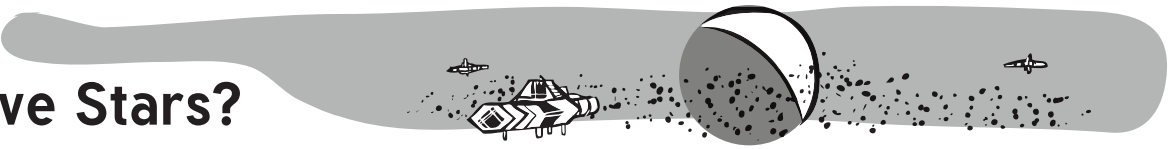
Using both the book and the movie to help you, explain how Tom Robinson's death is like "*the senseless slaughter of songbirds by hunters and children*" (Chapter 25).

Hint: Reread Atticus's explanation of why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird, and think about who the "songbirds" and the "hunters" are.

Scout compares hurting Boo Radley to shooting a mockingbird in Chapter 30. Find and write down the part where she says this. (Remember to use quotation marks!) How is Boo like a mockingbird?



Flop or Five Stars?



If you've ever watched a movie and announced afterwards that you loved it or hated it, then you might have the makings of a film critic! A film critic is someone who watches movies and reviews them thoughtfully and knowledgably. Watch the film **Ender's Game** and fill in the information below, giving a star rating at the end. Make it a movie night! Print out these pages for each movie watcher to fill out and compare notes at the end.

NAME OF MOVIE: _____

GENRE: (Check one or more boxes)

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action | <input type="checkbox"/> Drama | <input type="checkbox"/> Family-friendly | <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Comedy | <input type="checkbox"/> Documentary | <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy | <input type="checkbox"/> Horror | <input type="checkbox"/> Science fiction |

DEVELOPMENT OF THEME:

Choose one theme to discuss:

Acceptance, Courage, Perseverance, Cooperation,
Compassion, Honesty, Kindness, Loyalty

How well did this film explore your chosen theme? Do you feel satisfied at the movie's treatment of the theme?

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:

Write about each character, answering at least two of the following questions.

- Is the character believable?
- Did the character change during the film?
- Does s/he have the same desires, needs, and opinions at the beginning as s/he does at the end?

(CONTINUED)

Flop or Five Stars?

Protagonist (the leading character/the hero):

Antagonist (the character(s) in opposition to the protagonist):

Supporting characters (these characters can support either the protagonist or antagonist):

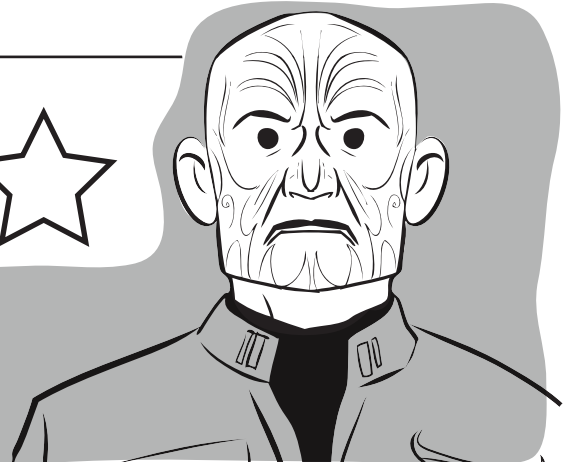
How did this movie make you feel at the

Beginning: _____

Middle: _____

End: _____

RATING:



Buggers VS the International Fleet

You've sunk my spaceship! When aliens and humans go head to head, things are bound to get rough. See if you have Ender's razor-sharp strategic skills by challenging a friend to this twist on a classic board game favorite.

YOU WILL NEED:

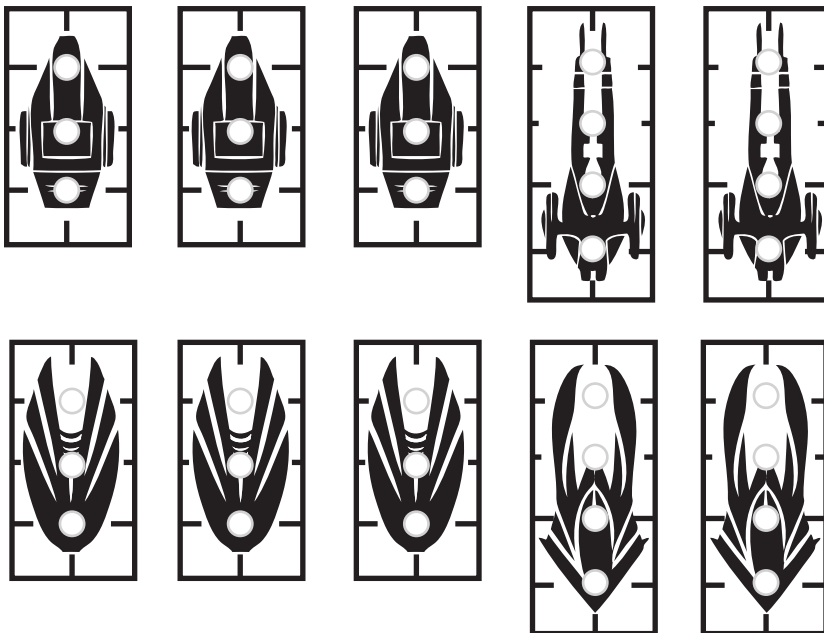
- Scissors
- Tape
- Red marker
- Black marker
- Something to place between players to hide the boards from the other side.

Remember: when calling out coordinates, the number for the x-axis always comes before the number for the y-axis. We write it out like this: (x, y)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut out the game pieces for both players, and tape them horizontally or vertically so the dots match up with coordinates on your grid. Make sure you hide your game piece locations from your opponent!
2. Take turns guessing coordinates to find your opponent's pieces. Each player must respond to a guess with either a hit or miss statement. A hit means the coordinate called out by a player matches up with one of the circles on a piece; "edge hits" do not count.
3. If you hit one of your opponent's pieces, mark that spot on your Opponent Board with a red dot, and if you miss, mark the spot with a black dot.
4. If your opponent hits one of your pieces, mark the coordinate on your own board with a red dot. Once a piece has been hit on all its coordinates, that piece is out, and tell your opponent "you got my _____!"
5. Whoever gets all of their opponent's pieces wins!

GAME PIECES



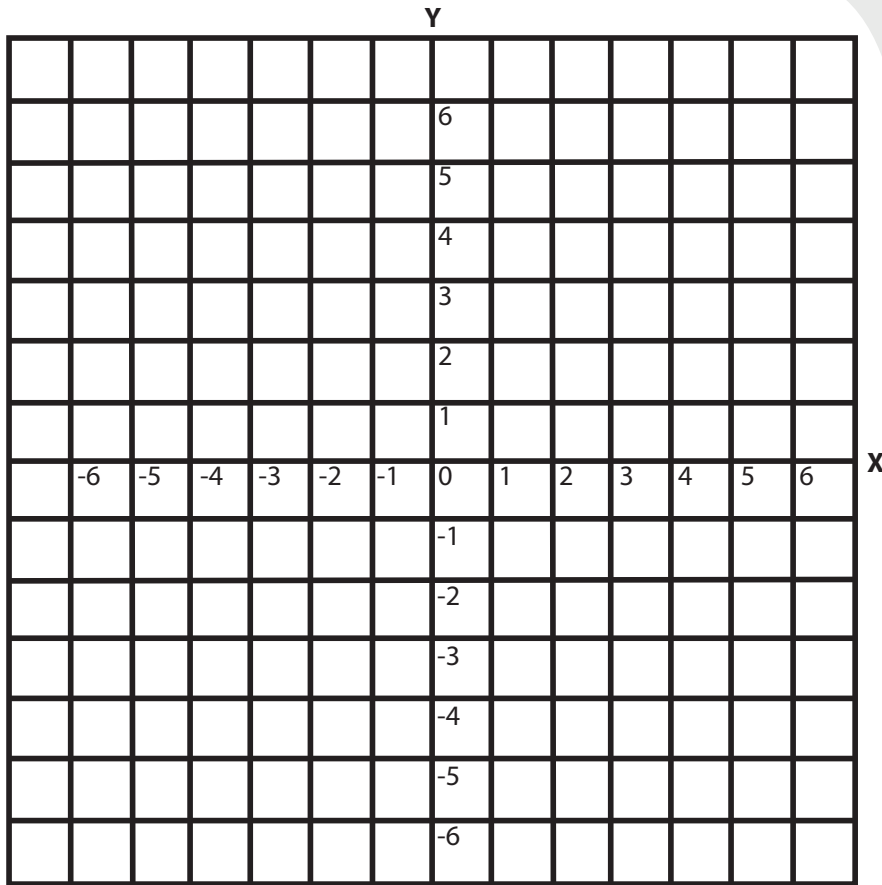
Carefully cut these game pieces out and place them on your game board, being careful to line up the white dots with coordinates on the grid. If you need help lining the pieces up, use the guidelines on the outside of the pieces.



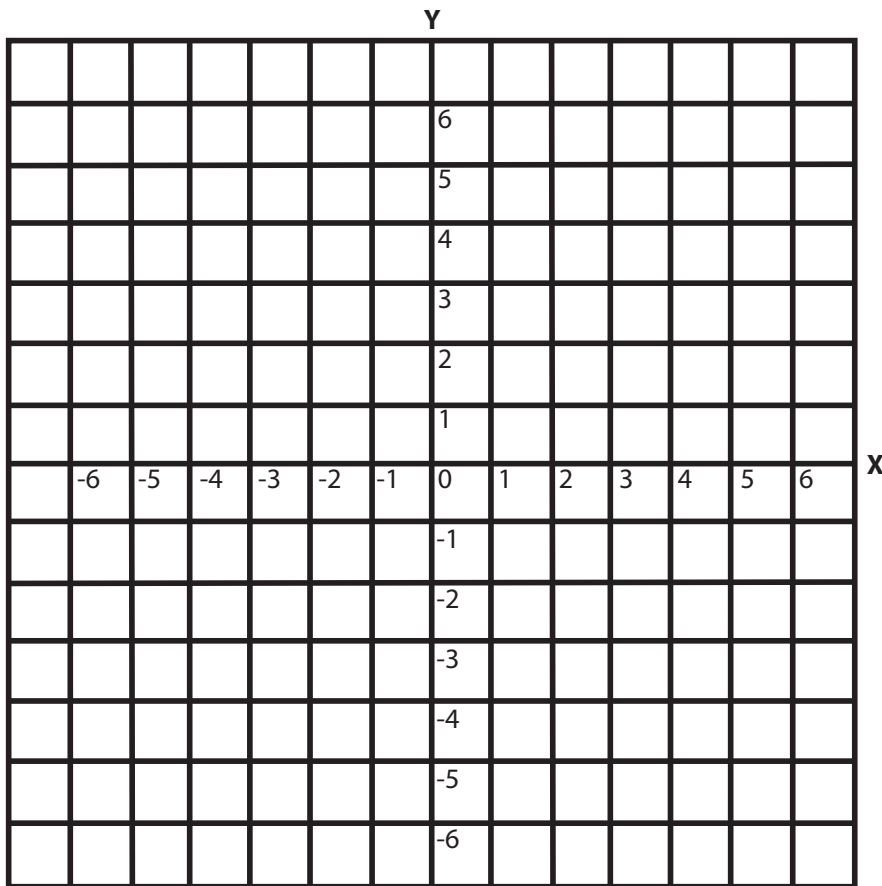
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Buggers VS the International Fleet

OPPONENT'S BOARD



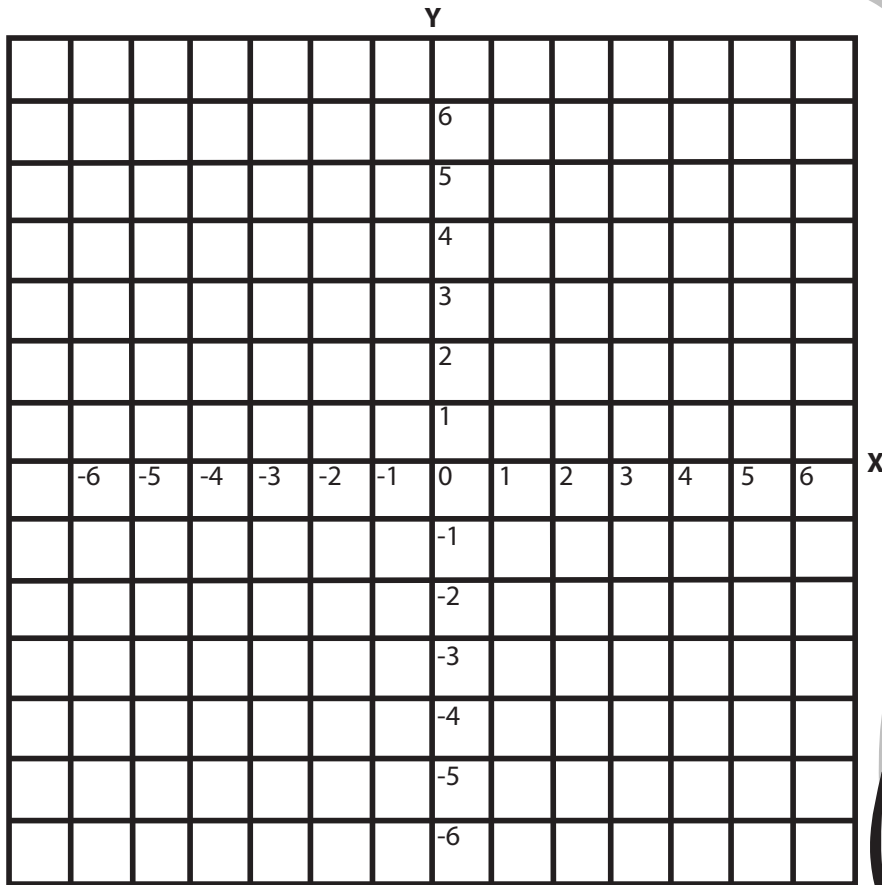
YOUR BOARD



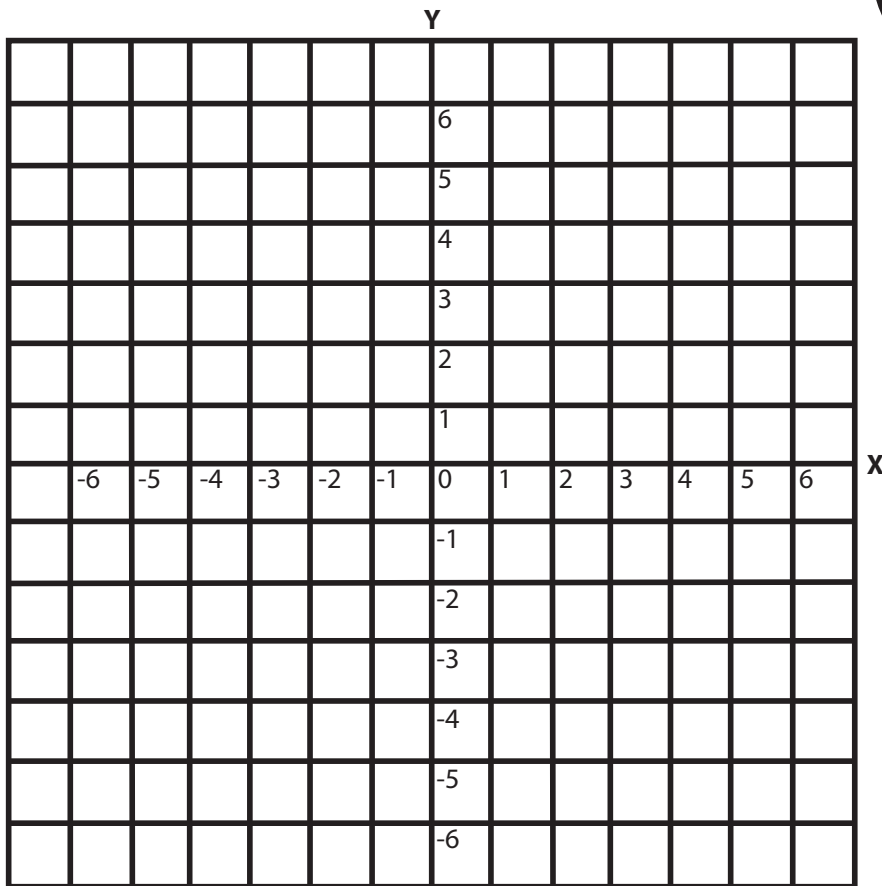
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Buggers VS the International Fleet

OPONENT'S BOARD



YOUR BOARD



Close-Up: The Climax

It's the moment in the story you've been waiting for: Ender finally gets the opportunity to prove himself as a leader and a fighter. The whole book/movie has been building up to this: the climax. It's the part, towards the end, where everything comes together, for better or for worse. Sometimes a resolution to the tale's problem is reached, sometimes not. Either way, it's a defining moment for the characters.

Needless to say, such a big event is important to a movie. Let's take a closer look at the moment when everything changes for Ender.

BOOK

Pages ___ to ___

Differences

Similarities

MOVIE

___hr. ___min. to ___hr. ___min.

Differences

Which version of the scene do you think is more effective?

Why did the director stay with or depart from the text?



Ender and Peter: A Sibling Rivalry

"You did better. They think you're better. But I don't want a better little brother, Ender. I don't want a Third."

--Peter

Peter is jealous of Ender because Ender is a star student in the International Fleet, which had rejected Peter. Describe an instance of sibling rivalry between you and your brother and/or sister. If you don't have any siblings, write about an instance of competition with a friend or classmate instead. Think about whether feeling competitive made you behave differently, if it changed your view of your sibling or friend, and how you felt about the outcome.



The Hobbit

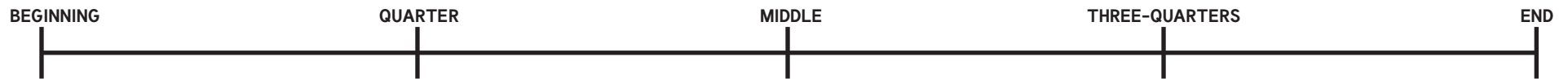
Timeline: One Book, Three Movies

When adapting a book to screen, filmmakers often change the chronology, or the order in which events happen. Sometimes, they skip parts that were in the book, or add in new events that weren't in the book. Fill in the two timelines below, one for the book and one for the movie. Then compare them. Why do you think the filmmakers made those specific changes?



Hint: This movie is the first instalment of a trilogy!

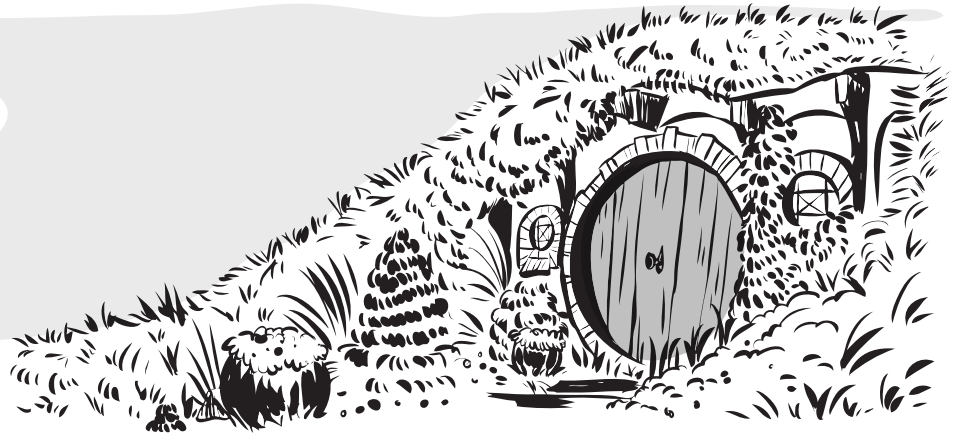
BOOK TIMELINE



(CONTINUED)

The Hobbit

Timeline: One Book, Three Movies



MOVIE TIMELINE



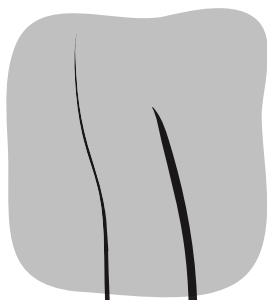
Compare the book with the first movie, *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. About how far into the book do the events of the first movie take the audience—one quarter of the book, half way, or more?

Page versus Screen: The Hobbit

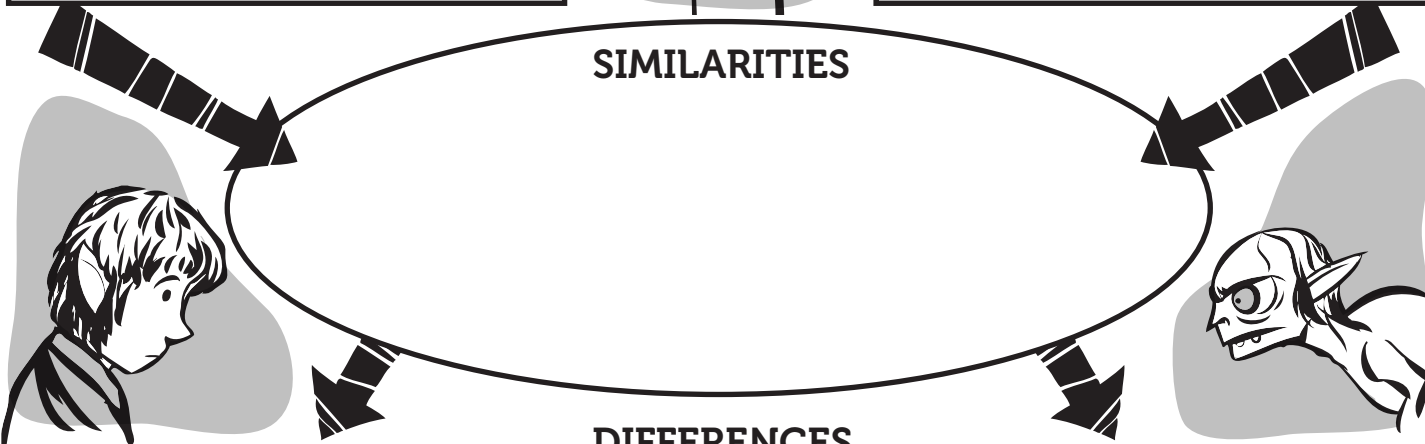
Many things factor into filmmakers' decisions to make their movie different from the book, whether it's cutting out a scene, adding a character, altering the dialogue, or even completely changing an ending. They might do it for budget reasons—not enough money to film everything the way they would like—or for the sake of the run time—few people want to watch a four-hour movie.

Compare and contrast **The Hobbit** as a book and as a movie. Then decide how well you like each version of the story!

BOOK:
AUTHOR:
YEAR:



MOVIE:
DIRECTOR/SCREENWRITER:
YEAR:



Ex: The ending



Ex: Character's choices

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ← **RATING** → ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

More Movies Based on Books

If you look, you'll find that many movies out there got their start as books. Here are some more movies and the books that inspired them. Happy reading and watching!

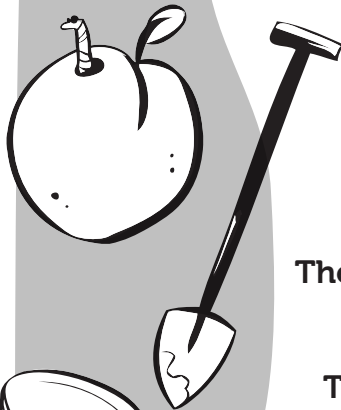
Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory (1971), **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** (2005) – **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl



Matilda (1996) – **Matilda** by Roald Dahl



James and the Giant Peach (1996) – **James and the Giant Peach** by Roald Dahl

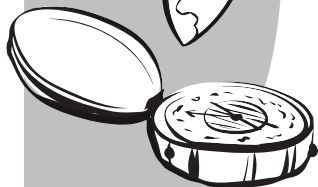


The Jungle Book (1967) – **The Jungle Book** and **The Second Jungle Book** by Rudyard Kipling

Holes (2003) – **Holes** by Louis Sachar



The Secret Life of Bees (2008) – **The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd



The Golden Compass (2007) – **The Golden Compass** (also known as **Northern Lights**) by Philip Pullman

A Cry in the Wild (1990) – **Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (2010) – **The Lightning Thief** by Rick Riordan



Harry Potter movie series (2001-2011) – **Harry Potter** book series by J.K. Rowling

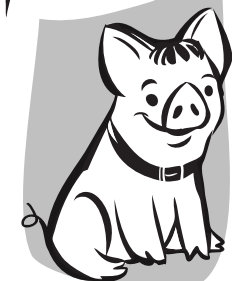
The Hunger Games movie trilogy (2012-2015) – **The Hunger Games** book trilogy by Suzanne Collins

Where the Red Fern Grows (1974) – **Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls



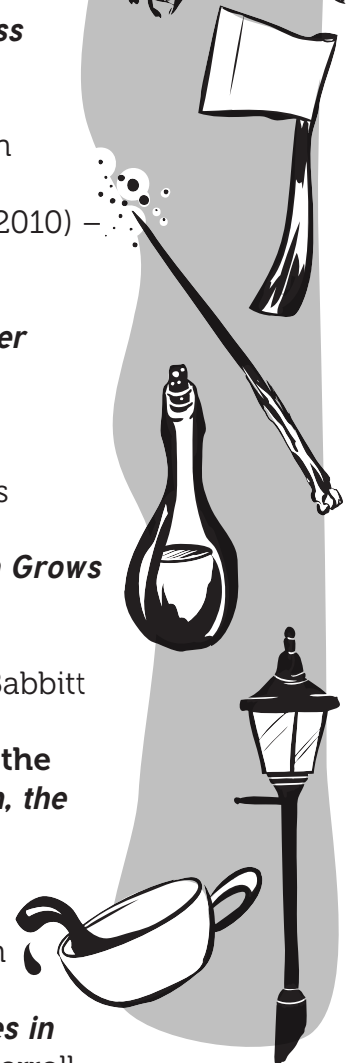
Tuck Everlasting (2002) – **Tuck Everlasting** by Natalie Babbitt

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) – **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** by C.S. Lewis



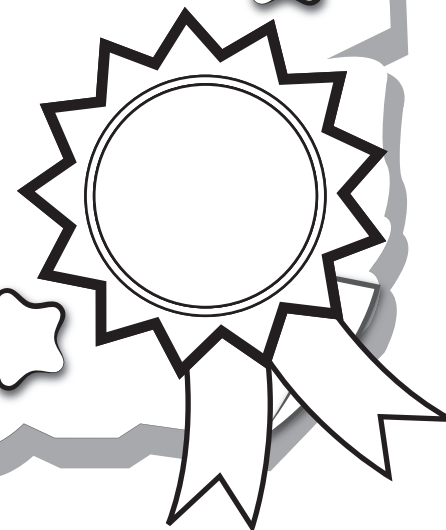
Babe (1995) – **Babe: The Gallant Pig** (also known as **The Sheep-Pig**) by Dick King-Smith

Alice in Wonderland (1951, 2010) – **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland** and **Through the Looking-Glass** by Lewis Carroll



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