

Name

Date

Writing About the *Secret Path*: Movie Review

Secret Path is a multimedia project that honours the life of Chanie Wenjack and tells his story in several ways or forms.

One of these forms is an animated movie that was broadcast on CBC in October of 2016. This movie combines the songs from the *Secret Path* album with animated versions of Jeff Lemire's images from the graphic novel.

Movies have their own special way of telling stories, and people often write about this in a form of text called a **movie review**. In this activity, you will write your own movie review about the *Secret Path* animated movie.

Instructions:

Part One: Preparing

1. Prepare a sheet of paper or a page in your notebook to take notes while you watch the *Secret Path* movie.
2. On your note sheet, create a diagram that looks like this:

Does Well:	Needs Improvement:
General Notes:	

3. Watch the *Secret Path* movie. (<https://bit.ly/2B0GBe5> - 0:00-46:14)

4. As you watch the movie, fill out your note sheet with the elements that the film does well and the elements that need improvement. You can also fill in the “General Notes” section with other thoughts and feelings that come up for you while you watch.

Part Two: Writing

Here is a step-by-step guide to writing a movie review, along with examples from a review about a movie called *Indian Horse*.

Your movie review should have five paragraphs:

1. Introduction:

- Grab the reader’s attention with a catchy “hook” sentence that prepares them to read about the movie. One example of a hook is:

“Have you ever experienced a challenge or tragedy that you had to work very hard to overcome?”

- Give the title of the movie and use two or three short sentences to briefly summarize the story of the movie. Here’s an example:

“*Indian Horse* is based on a book by Richard Wagamese, and tells the story of Saul Indian Horse, a young boy who survives the residential school system to become a hockey player. He encounters many challenges along the way, like racism, alcoholism, and traumatic memories. But he works hard with the people around him to find peace and healing.”

- Introduce the movie’s audience and purpose.

“*Indian Horse* is meant for an audience of older teenagers and young adults, and wants to send a message about overcoming the challenges that life puts in your way. “

- Add a thesis statement to summarize whether or not you think this movie was successful in accomplishing its purpose. Make sure to introduce the points that you will develop in the rest of your review.

NOTE: For this review, include three points about the movie that were successful and three points that need improvement.

“I think that the plot, acting, and symbolism of *Indian Horse* are successful in sending this message. However, the structure, music, and faithfulness to the book need improvement.”

2. Does Well:

- Explain why the points in your thesis statement successfully accomplish the movie’s purpose. For each point, provide one or two examples from the movie.

“The plot sends a powerful message about overcoming life’s challenges. Saul Indian Horse’s experiences at residential school are scary, traumatic, and painful. But he finds happiness in playing hockey.”

3. Needs Improvement:

- Explain why the points in your thesis statement can make it challenging to accomplish the movie’s purpose. For each point, provide one or two examples from the movie.

“However, the structure of the movie can make it hard to understand its message. The movie has several flashbacks and flashforwards, which sometimes make it hard to follow the order of events.”

4. Thoughts and Feelings:

- Discuss your other thoughts and feelings about the movie. What did you like? What didn’t you like? What did you learn from watching it? What else could be added to better tell Chanie Wenjack’s story?

“Even with these successes and challenges, I personally enjoyed *Indian Horse*. It was sad, but also inspiring. I learned a lot about the experiences and challenges that residential school survivors encountered. I also learned about the importance of healing.”

5. Conclusion:

- Restate the audience and purpose of the movie.

“*Indian Horse* tells a story about hope and survival for older teenagers and young adults.”

- Restate your thesis and summarize your review.

“The plot, acting, and symbolism make sure that everyone can learn from Saul Indian Horse’s story. However, the structure, music, and faithfulness to the original book could have used a little more work.”

- End your review by stating whether or not you recommend watching this movie. Explain your answer.

“I recommend watching *Indian Horse*. Anyone who is interested in stories about residential schools, healing, or the power of sports will appreciate this movie.”

Part Three: Revising

1. Read through your whole movie review to make sure that each paragraph accomplishes its objective.
2. Look over your movie review to double-check your spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
3. Read your review out loud to make sure that everything makes sense and flows well.
4. Write down **three things** that you think you did well, and **three things** that you think you can improve for the next draft of the review.
5. Ask your teacher if you need help coming up with any strategies to make your review even better.
6. Make any necessary changes.

Part Four: Peer Evaluation

1. Trade reviews with a classmate.
2. Read their review and highlight any mistakes that they may have missed.
3. Write down three things that they did well, and three things that they can improve for their final draft of the review.

Part Five: Final Draft

1. Look at the feedback that you received during Peer Evaluation.
2. Make any necessary changes.
3. Submit your final draft to your teacher.