



# Film Review



Today our English task is cross-curricular with our History topic - we are going to be writing a film review of a film set in the Victorian era.

In school, we are going to be watching and reviewing '**Oliver!**'

*This is the 1968 musical adaptation of Charles Dickens classic tale, Oliver Twist, of an orphan in Victorian England who escapes a depressing life in the workhouse and goes to London to seek his fortune. He's taken in by a band of young thieves under the tutelage of a lovable villain, Fagin. Other characters include the Artful Dodger, Fagin's loyal apprentice, Bill Sykes, Fagin's evil henchman, and Nancy, a graduate of Fagin's band and girlfriend of Bill. Oliver unwittingly ends up living with his biological grandfather after a bungled pick-pocketing expedition only to be kidnapped back into the den of thieves, lest he gives away their identities. Nancy attempts to return the boy but comes to a violent end (alluded to off camera) at the hand of Bill. However, Bill gets his comeuppance and Oliver is returned to his grandfather, who discovers the boy's true identity.*

You could also watch this with us or you can watch any film of your choice which is set in this era. Here are some other suggestions:

- **Around the world in 80days** *The most famous version of the Jules Verne classic set in the late Victorian era is the 1956 film starring David Niven. This cinematic who's who is big and bright. The story centres around Pileas Fogg, a Victorian Englishman who bets 20,000 that he can travel around the world in 80 days. He and his manservant, Passepartout embark on a journey that starts by train, but also includes a lot of walking, travelling by elephant more than once, boat, steamship, and a train across America that ends with Fogg, Passepartout and the lovely widow, Mrs. Aouda (who joined the adventure in India) arriving in New York on a hand car. After taking over another ship in order to get to Liverpool, Fogg is arrested by Detective Fix who errantly things Fogg is up to no good. The trio finally arrives in London by way of hot air balloon. Fogg not only wins the bet, but he gains a wife in Mrs. Aouda.*
- **Friendly Persuasion** *This 1956 Civil War comedy/drama centres around a Quaker family and how they each respond to the events surrounding them. It is a simplified depiction of Quakerism and just-war theory but presents the philosophical conflict in a thoughtful way.*
- **Little Women** *The story centres around the March family and how the four sisters and their mother survive the absence of their father during the American Civil War. These women are courageous, ingenious, and funny.*
- **Great Expectations** *Orphan Phillip "Pip" Pirrip lives with his shrewish older sister and her kind-hearted blacksmith husband, Joe Gargery. One day, Pip runs into an escaped convict, Abel Magwitch, who intimidates the boy into getting him some food and a file for his chains.*
- **The Secret Garden** *This film is set at the end of the Victorian era. The film centres on Mary Lennox, who is living in India with her wealthy British family. She is a selfish and disagreeable 10-year-old girl who has been spoiled by her servants and neglected by her unloving parents. When a cholera epidemic kills her parents and the servants, Mary is orphaned.*

Whilst watching the film that you choose, think about whether it is an accurate reflection of the Victorian era. Then, complete the film review template.

A Film Review by \_\_\_\_\_

Your star rating for this film



Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_

**Plot**

What happens? Are there any plot twists?  
Did you find the plot interesting?

**Characters**

Who are the main characters?  
Who was your favourite character? Why?

**Your opinion**

Did you like the film?  
What was your favourite part? Why?

**Recommend**

Would you recommend  
this film to a friend?  
Why or why not?