

Ethel & Ernest

Learning Resource

Create a Film Review



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Preparing to write a film review can encourage learners to be active film viewers, who think critically about what they watch and can demonstrate good communication skills by sharing their thoughts and understanding others' ideas about films.

In this activity learners will use the 3Cs and 3Ss framework to prepare to watch hand-drawn animated feature, *Ethel & Ernest*, and scaffold a written film review using the Into Film Review Writing template.

Resources needed:

- Interview with Roger Mainwood, Director (in Video)
- *Ethel & Ernest* trailer (in Video)
- Review Writing template (below)
- 3Cs and 3Ss question card (in Activity Sheet: Work with the 3Cs and the 3Ss)
- 3Cs and 3Ss mind map template (in Activity Sheet: Work with the 3Cs and the 3Ss)

Teacher instructions

1. Watch the **Interview with Roger Mainwood, Director** to introduce the film of *Ethel & Ernest* to learners. You may like to stop and discuss the clip into at these points:

- 00:01:49 - ask learners to discuss how long the film has been in production and what activity took place in the early stages of making the film
- 00:02:26 - ask learners to discuss how Raymond Briggs writes and illustrates his books and what advantages and challenges this presents for the director
- 00:04:03 - ask learners to discuss how sequences of the film are put together and how technology and traditional animation methods are combined

2. Watch the *Ethel & Ernest* trailer and use the **3Cs and 3Ss question card** and **mind map** to discuss and note ideas about the film.

3. Give each student a copy of page one of the **Review Writing template**, discuss with students how they can complete this page or consider the questions on it as they watch *Ethel & Ernest* at the cinema or on television.
4. After viewing *Ethel & Ernest* support students to complete pages one and two of the **Review Writing template**, create a class mind map to share ideas about the film using the prompt questions and creative comparisons challenge.
5. Support learners to use the Film review writing frame on pages three and four of the **Review Writing template** and work in small groups to provide peer feedback.
6. You may like to extend this activity by providing copies of written reviews from other websites, newspapers or magazines for students to critique and compare them with their reviews.
7. If you are an Into Film Club, ask members to post their review on the Into Film website: intofilm.org/clubs to enter Review of the Week.



Resources available on the *Ethel & Ernest* website: ethelandernestthemovie.com



Review Writing template

Use this writing frame to draft your film review. Remember: a review is a chance for you to give your own opinions on a film - there are no right or wrong answers!

Title

Introduction

Remember to hook the reader in. Engage the reader by making it interesting or exciting.

Paragraph 1 - Synopsis

Using your snappy synopsis skills, briefly describe what happens in the film. Don't include any spoilers - never give away an ending or reveal an important part!



Review Writing template

Paragraph 2 - Context

Use your favourite creative comparisons to help your reader understand what watching the film is like. You might also want to include information like the names of the actors or other films the director has made.

Paragraph 3 - Evaluation

Did you like the film? Why? Why not? Use your favourite Wow words to describe how you feel about the film.

Swap reviews and evaluate someone else's review

Peer-assessed by (your name):

Two 'stars' (what was great about the review):

One 'wish' (something you would like to improve about the review):
