

Totally Awesome 80s

Film Review Assignment

Choose two films from the list below and write two separate Film Reviews using the guidelines. Each Review should be approximately two pages in length, typed in 12 font, and double spaced. Ideally, watch and discuss each film with your parents, guardians, relatives, and/or friends that lived through and remember the 80s and use their knowledge in your review. For any R Rated films please get your parents permission before viewing.

••• Guidelines:

Use these guidelines to frame your Film Reviews. I have watched these films; I do not want to read simple plot summaries. Be specific in your analysis in each Review and substantiate your observations with specific facts from the film. And remember, film names are underlined or *italicized*, not "quoted."

1. When was the film released?
2. What does the film tell us about the historical period with which it deals? How does the film portray the period and events it describes? Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
3. Does the film have any underlying messages about the historical event? If so, what? Which events, philosophies, etc. influence this film? Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
4. What did the film add to your understanding of the period it covered? Use specific evidence.
5. Based on class, family discussion, and the Internet, to what extent is the film accurate? Is anything left out of the story?
6. Based on class, family discussion, and the Internet, to what impact did this film have on American society in the 1980s? Use specific examples.
7. Explain how the use of sound, music, and/or sound effects in the film exemplify, influence, or are influenced by the era. Use specific examples.
8. Explain how the film holds up as a piece of historical analysis Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
9. Of what use is this film in showing or explaining the 1980s, in part or as a whole?

●●● Totally Awesome 80s Film List:

1. *And the Band Played On*
2. *Beverly Hills Cop*
3. *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*
4. *Breakfast Club*
5. *Caddyshack*
6. *The Day After*
7. *Desperately Seeking Susan*
8. *Die Hard*
9. *Do the Right Thing*
10. *E.T. the Extraterrestrial*
11. *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*
12. *Fatal Attraction*
13. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*
14. *Flashdance*
15. *Footloose*
16. *Ghostbusters*
17. *The Goonies*
18. *Gremlins*
19. *Heathers*
20. *Lean on Me*
21. *Pee Wee's Big Adventure*
22. *Pretty in Pink*
23. *Purple Rain*
24. *Red Dawn*
25. *Revenge of the Nerds*
26. *Risky Business*
27. *Rocky IV*
28. *Say Anything...*
29. *Sixteen Candles*
30. *Some Kind of Wonderful*
31. *St. Elmo's Fire*
32. *Stand & Deliver*
33. *The Terminator*
34. *This Is Spinal Tap*
35. *Top Gun*
36. *Trading Places*
37. *Valley Girl*
38. *Wall Street*
39. *War Games*
40. *Weird Science*

Be sure to choose two films to review separately. Each review is worth 10 points. The films may be available on DVD at the Montclair Library. I also have a few on DVD so check with me if you can't find them elsewhere.