

**Unit 1 A Movie Review**Movie Review of *Imagining Maria*

Last weekend, the new drama film *Imagining Maria* came out in movie theaters around the country. I watched it with a packed crowd on opening night.

*Imagining Maria* is a story about eleven-year-old Maria Grace and is based on the popular book of the same name. Crystal Waves, the actress who plays Maria, gives a great performance. But the best part of the movie is the actor Jerry Grady, who plays the villain. His scenes are really good, and he's very scary.

What I really like about the movie is the changes from the book. I didn't like the book because it was a bit boring. This movie adds lots of action but keeps the original storyline. The turning point of the film, the fight scene in the library, is my favorite scene in the movie, but it isn't in the book. The ending is different as well, but I won't spoil that here!

*Imagining Maria* is an entertaining movie that I highly recommend. Anyone who wants to see a good, exciting film this weekend should check it out.

## Unit 2 The Best Movie

My Favorite Movie, *Superhero Squad: Final Fight*

I think the best movie ever is *Superhero Squad: Final Fight*. Few people know about this series. But, in this essay, I will tell you why everyone should know about it.

The storyline of this film is exciting. There is a lot of action, endless jokes, unexpected surprises, and a little romance. It is the perfect ratio for the perfect movie. Speaking of jokes, this movie is extremely funny. The main character, Voltage Boy, makes jokes in almost every scene. I couldn't stop laughing throughout the whole movie. This movie is the fourth movie in the series. The others are also really funny, but not as funny as *Final Fight*.

This movie also has the best fight scenes. A few characters are good fighters, so they use cool weapons like long swords or a bow. But the others can't fight at all. Instead, they either make jokes during the fight or help out the person who is fighting. The actors who can fight made me want to take martial arts classes.

*Superhero Squad: Final Fight* is a great movie and lots of fun for the whole family. If you haven't seen it, you can stream it online. If you have a few free hours, go watch it! I promise you won't regret it!

**Unit 3 A Very Special Book**

My Favorite Book: *Frying High*

I love reading, and I read as many as two books a week. I've read classic and modern books in all genres, but no book has touched me as much as Yolanda Fry's autobiography *Frying High*.

There are many reasons why I find this book so touching. What I found most touching was the relationship between Yolanda and her mother. Most of my friends know Yolanda from her popular online videos, where she sings really loud, using her hairdryer as a microphone. She always appears alone in her videos. I didn't realize that her mother is the one holding the camera! They have a very close relationship since her mother helps her with every episode. I could tell that they love each other very much.

I was also touched by how Yolanda talked about her fans. She said that, due to her fans' support, she is able to do what she loves. Because of reading this book, I became a bigger fan of Yolanda. She seems like a really nice person.

Reading this book will make you see one of the internet's rising stars differently. I highly recommend it for anyone looking for a new book to read.

## Unit 4 My Favorite & Least Favorite Characters

### My Favorite and Least Favorite Characters: A Book Review

Recently, I read *The Many Lives of Henry Swab*, the latest science fiction novel from author Gerald Grant. Even though there were lots of characters, I had a clear favorite and least favorite character.

My favorite character was definitely Catherine Kelly, the genius scientist and inventor of a time machine. I really liked her personality. She was so calm and smart. She always knew the right answer and refused to argue with anyone, including Henry Swab. Although she only played a supporting role, she made the biggest impression on me.

In contrast, my least favorite character was the main character, Henry Swab. Compared to Catherine, he was a mean and cruel person. He said mean things about others, refused to help his friends when they were in danger, and pretended to be nice to get something he wanted. I wonder why Catherine frequently helped him.

Overall, I enjoyed the book a lot. Although the main character of the book was my least favorite, I enjoyed reading about my favorite character. I can't wait to read the next book in the series, *The Golden Palace*.

## Unit 5 A Good Friend

### Who Is a Good Friend?

Everybody needs a friend. But what makes a good friend? In my opinion, there are a number of things to look for.

First, good friends should be good listeners. For example, someone who will listen to you talk about your day, even if it's really boring, is a good friend. If they don't listen or show an interest in your day, they are not a good friend.

Additionally, good friends should be reliable. That is, you should be able to ask a friend for help or tell them your secrets. If your friend refuses to help or can't keep that secret to themselves, they are not a good friend.

Finally, friends should have the same interests as you. But even if they don't, they should at least make an effort to enjoy what you like. My best friend Matt, for instance, doesn't like video games. However, he doesn't mind watching me play *Soul Scorchers*.

In summary, a good friend is someone who listens to you, who is reliable, and who cares about your interests. If you have a friend like that, you are very lucky! If you don't, it might be time to look for a new friend.

**Unit 6 Friends as Family**

## Friends Closer than Family

Some people say that friends can be as close as family. But I believe that friends can actually be closer than family.

Similar to family, we spend a lot of time with friends. In fact, we often spend more time with our friends than our family. Since we have experienced many things together in everyday life, like difficult exams or funny things in class, we prefer spending time with our friends than with our families. Families don't know what problems we encounter each day, but friends do.

In addition, my friend and I are closer because we enjoy doing the same activities. We become closer by learning things about a hobby and making a connection. Unfortunately, I don't have many things in common with my parents or siblings. In fact, my family and I like very different things. We don't have the same connection as I do with my friends.

In conclusion, we often spend more time with friends than with family, experience more things together, and enjoy doing the same activities. Due to all this, friends can be closer than families.

**Unit 7 Volunteer Work around Town**

## Volunteer Work around Town

This Sunday is Earth Day, and Whistleton needs volunteers around town. Why not consider being a volunteer for the day?

Before the Earth Day event starts at 9:00 a.m., volunteers are needed to set up stalls in both the Town Square and Feldmann Park. If you are able to help, please meet at either the Town Hall or the Central Library at 7:30 a.m. During the event, there are a number of ways you can help. Volunteers are always needed to direct cars in the parking lot. Of course, after the event finishes, there will be a lot of work to do! If you are willing to help with the cleanup, you won't even miss the event itself. Just come along after the Earth Day festivities finish at 6:00 p.m. to volunteer in this way. A local restaurant will supply both food and drink to volunteers who help out.

If you come to the Earth Day celebrations, you will help to save the planet. But if you volunteer, you will help the town as well.

**Unit 8 Getting Others to Recycle**

## Middle School Recycling Campaign

Are you good at recycling? Peach Hills Middle School wants all our students to join the "100% Recycling" campaign. Here's what you can do:

The most important thing is to think before throwing anything away. Before throwing something away, see if you can recycle it. If you are not sure, check the bottom of the packaging and look for any of the multiple recycling symbols. Another important thing is to recycle using the correct bin.

There are ways to reduce the amount of non-recyclable items you throw away as well. When you're in a store, check the labels before you buy something. Instead of buying something that isn't recyclable, you should look for something that is. Or, before throwing it away, think about how you can reuse that item in your home. Every time we buy something that is recyclable, we help the earth.

These are just a couple of ways you can help out in the new "100% Recycling" campaign. All of us have a part to play. So next time you want to throw something away, stop and think before you put it in the trash.