

Grade 8 Playlist: Analyze Different Adaptations

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.8.7:

- Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

Welcome

A well-written story makes the action come alive for the reader. It lets the reader know what the setting looks like and how the characters sound when they speak. However, not everyone sees and hears a story in their mind the same way. This becomes evident when a book or other work of literature is made into a movie. Often, people who see a movie based on a book they have not read find it highly entertaining, while people who have read the book are very critical of it. “Wait a second—that’s not how it happened at all!” they might say. “They left out an important part of the book!” “That actor is a terrible choice to play this character!” These comments show that the readers have compared the film with the original text and made judgments about whether the film is effective.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script.
- evaluate the choices made by the director or actors in a filmed or live production of a story or drama.

Review

Key Terms

- An **adaptation** of a work of literature presents the story in a different form. Common types of adaptations include:
 - **live productions**, in which actors perform on a stage in front of an audience. Dramas are usually written to be performed as live productions.
 - **film** adaptations, in which actors perform on a set in front of a camera. The production is filmed, edited, and made into a movie that the audience later views on a screen.
- A **script** is the written document from which a live production or film is made. It includes dialogue, stage directions, and information about the plot of the story.



Exploring the Standard

As people read a text, they interpret it; they understand the story in a way that is meaningful for them. Different people can interpret the same work differently. In the case of a live production or a film adaptation, the director is the person who interprets the story. It is up to the director to manage the acting, staging, lighting, and other elements to tell the story in a certain way. All of these elements affect the way the viewers understand the story.

A Closer Look: From Book to Movie

Books can be very lengthy—typically hundreds of pages. A long book can take a reader days or even weeks to finish. Films and plays, on the other hand, are rarely this long. Most movies run about two hours. A three-hour movie is considered lengthy, while movies four hours or longer are sometimes divided into more than one part. The three movies in the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy run almost ten hours all together. It would take all day to watch the entire story. But the three books they are based on total more than a thousand pages. Reading all three books would take much, *much* longer!

In most cases, movies are shorter than the books they are based on because the movies do not include as much information as the books do. In a book, the narrator might describe the characters' inner thoughts and feelings; the reader often knows more than the characters know. But in a movie, it is more difficult for a director to develop that omniscient viewpoint.

Other times, the director or actors deliberately change details in a book. They may emphasize details that the author does not. They may even make major changes to the plot, setting, or dialogue. If the author of the work being adapted is alive at the time, the director may ask his or her permission to make these changes. But if it is a classic work that was written long ago, the director often has more freedom to depart from the original text.

Watch!

This video compares the film and book versions of another series, *The Hunger Games*:

- <https://www.opened.com/video/the-hunger-games-the-book-vs-the-movie/1528664>

Watch!

In this video, a reader compares the film and book versions of *Holes*. What aspects of the story does the reader focus on?

- <https://www.opened.com/video/books-vs-movies-review-holes-in-one-part-youtube/106834>

