



I. WRITE A REVIEW OF THE SHOW!

Learning Objectives

- To be able to offer your personal opinion through writing;
- To distinguish between fact and opinion and be able to support your points with valid reasons;
- To use writing such as figurative language to both engage the reader and emphasise your opinions;

Resource

- The show of Jina and the STEM Sisters

Introduction

Introduce the purpose of a review which is to write your opinions on something you have read or seen to inform others about the work and thereby often influence the reader or viewer as to whether they themselves would like to read or view the work.

MAIN TASKS

1. Watch the show!
2. In a group or class discussions afterwards, note the different elements which can be included in a review:
 - a. the story, text and lyrics and characters/interpretation of the historical women;
 - b. the scientific content and information;
 - c. the design including set, puppets, lighting and the music;
 - d. the performers e.g. the puppeteers and singers;
 - e. the production – how the Director has conceived of the show bringing all those elements together;
 - f. the purpose/message behind it.

There may well be other things to add to this list.

3. Write a review of the show. Include the following:
 - a. What were its strengths and weaknesses? - What did you enjoy (or not enjoy) and why?;
 - b. Use evidence to support your ideas such as examples to illustrate your points – can you remember any quotes/phrases from the show? Make sure you have a reason for all of your points of view;
 - c. Give your personal opinion with confidence and ensure there is a purpose to what points you are making;

- d. End with a conclusion which should also draw together whether you would recommend someone else to watch it or not.
 - e. Maybe give it a star rating on a scale of 1-5 with 5 being the highest.
4. Think about the style and type of language you want to use.
- a. Start with a title/heading which both explains what the show is and what you think of it e.g. “inspiring puppet musical”
 - b. Address the reader directly and be clear you are using your own opinions e.g. I enjoyed You might be interested to know....
 - c. Can you show your knowledge about the subject matter e.g. historical information you have learnt about the women, their work, scientific discoveries and language – either that you already knew or that you learnt during the show?
 - d. Think about your own writing style and use some figurative language to express your opinions e.g. alliteration, metaphors, imagery etc.
 - e. You might want to include some technical or specialist words (jargon) e.g. algorithm to emphasise your point;
 - f. Make your writing lively and engaging by using a mixture of language, writing techniques, different sentence lengths and most importantly expressing your own thoughts passionately and directly.
5. Discuss the impact your review might have on the creative team: writer, composer, designer, director and performers. Do you need to be sensitive to not offending them? Is that your responsibility? Does it make you feel powerful that a reviewer can impact on the success of someone’s career or how well a show sells its tickets? Or does it make you feel anxious not to offend/not to go too far if you didn’t like something? What characteristics do you think a reviewer needs to have, in addition to writing well?!