

# Teacher's Guide for ODYSSEY

March 2014: Movie Magic

*Teacher Guide prepared by: Nancy I. Colamussi, Elementary Education, B.S., M.A.  
Shoreham Wading River School District, Long Island, New York*

## **Teacher's Note:**

This guide contains project ideas, short answer, extended response, fill-in, and true/false with correction. The variation is designed to have the students think critically, as well as to test their comprehension. An answer key to the short answer sections can be found at the end of the guide.

## **Extended Response: Comprehension & Critical Thinking**

The questions below can be used as written, simply answered in complete sentences or easily transformed into longer essay (ELA) style questions, or even research topics. In any case, have the students support their answers with details from the text or use critical thinking skills to create a thorough and interesting answer. The questions, essays and projects have been aligned with the **Common Core Standards**. Consider the level of your students when deciding how to use the questions.

## **"Your Brain" p. 6-9**

1. Explain how the 'attentional system' in your brain functions.
2. What is happening internally when the lights come down in the cinema?
3. Why are the following film techniques used: edits, close-ups, sudden on-screen movements?
4. What is the mental state that psychologists refer to as 'flow'?
5. How does our sense of reality changes as we give up control?
6. Explain the phenomenon that film theorists and psychologists call 'suspension of disbelief'.
7. How is it that when watching a movie we feel real emotions toward unreal fictions?
8. Why is the intensity of the emotions and the consequent pleasure we get from watching movies may be diminishing?
9. Explain steps you can take to maximize the magic of movies.

**Project: Do you agree that we are losing the 'magic' of movies?** *Try an experiment watching two similarly rated movies. See one in a theater, and the other on a tech device of your choice. Write about the different experiences. Focus on the movie experience. Try to provide pros and cons for each.*

## **"Low-Tech, High-Tech" p. 14-17**

1. Why is everything, other than the actors' talking, done in post-production?
2. Describe a typical sound stage.
3. Why are sounds often changed after they are recorded? How is this done?
4. Why don't directors use CDs of pre-recorded sounds?

5. What is the highest compliment, according to the foley artists quoted in this article?

**"The Science of Star Trek" p. 18-21**

1. Explain why of all the technology in *Star Trek* the transporter is the least realistic.
2. How is warp drive possible?
3. What is a fusion core?
4. What is the biggest problem with space-time according to the theory of relativity?
5. Who will likely be the first interstellar travelers?

**"Don't Believe Your Eyes" p. 29-31**

*Read the article in its entirety and then fill in the blanks. Refer back to the text if necessary.*

1. Our eyes act like a \_\_\_\_\_, capturing images from the world around us.
2. Our eyes help us to identify the vivid \_\_\_\_\_ of an object from the surrounding background.
3. The eye is more than a camera. It not only captures images but also transmits and \_\_\_\_\_ these images.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ converts light into electrical impulses.
5. Light-sensing \_\_\_\_\_ form the retina.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ are the most elementary particles of light, emitted as waves.
7. The \_\_\_\_\_ nerve in our eye responds to changes in light about 10 times every second.
8. The retina, a sheath of specialized cells at the back of the eye, is basically a part of the \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The difference between the images from both eyes serves an important purpose in helping the brain gauge the depth of any scene. This perception of depth is called \_\_\_\_\_.

**"That Old-Time Movie Magic" p. 32-35**

1. What was the significance of a synthetic material called nitrocellulose?
2. Define emulsion.
3. Why does nitrocellulose qualify as a hazardous material?
4. Why was it important to handle nitrocellulose carefully? What precautions were taken?
5. How did the motion picture industry replace nitrocellulose in the 1950's?
6. How does the following statement apply to the information in this article: "Copies never have the same magic as original works of art"?
7. What is the Packard Campus dedication to?
8. What conditions are being employed to conserve the nation's audio-visual treasures?
9. Describe the style known as 'art deco'.

**ANSWER KEY**

***"Don't Believe Your Eyes"***

1. *camera*
2. *color*
3. *interprets*
4. *retina*
5. *cells*
6. *photons*
7. *optic*
8. *brain*
9. *stereopsis*