

Film: Influences and Decisions

Key Stage 4 - Lesson 1



We are learning:

- about the factors that affect viewing choices and the influence film can have on attitudes, perceptions and emotions

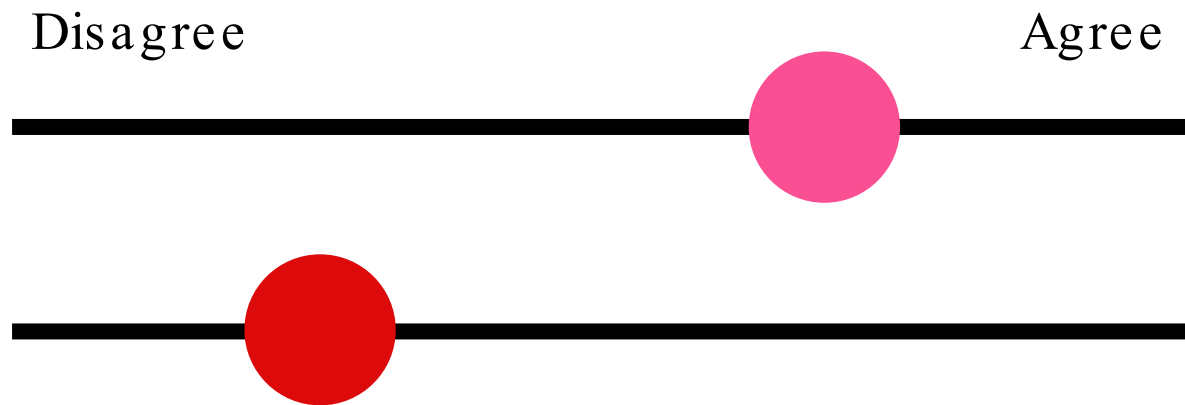
By the end of the lesson we will be able to:

- explain how a person can assess the suitability of a film for themselves based upon age restrictions, themes and content
- describe how film and online content can influence perceptions, attitudes and emotions
- identify strategies to manage concerns and emotions in relation to film and online content

Baseline: Attitude continuum

How much do you agree with each of the statements on your sheet?

On your own, draw a circle on each of the attitude continuum lines to show how much you agree, or disagree.



Then, on your own, answer the question:
“How might viewing film affect a person’s thoughts, attitudes or emotions, either positively or negatively?”

Keep this safe
- you’ll need it
again next
lesson!

The role of the BBFC

Some films and videos have things in them that can make viewers feel worried, confused or uncomfortable. The **British Board of Film Classification** (BBFC) wants audiences to enjoy watching films or online content, so their job is to view and classify films before general release.





The BBFC was set up in 1912 and has been providing age ratings for films for over 100 years. Part of the role of the BBFC is to listen to what the general viewing public think, and look at how they decide what to watch. Research projects with young people, teachers and parents are carried out across the country and the information gathered is used to make sure the advice is accurate and reflects societal attitudes.

The BBFC age ratings

The BBFC uses age rating symbols and provides explanations about films, videos, and some films and series viewed online.

This helps viewers decide what to watch, or what might not be suitable.

-  **Short ratings info** is on the BBFC Black Card when you go to the cinema, on DVD/Blu-ray packaging, or on Netflix. It's designed to give you all the info you need - at a glance - about the main content issues that occur in the content you're about to watch.
-  **Long ratings info** gives you more detailed information about all - not just the main - content issues that occur in a piece of content. We produce long ratings info for every film and TV episode we rate.

12 Star Wars: The Force Awakens

moderate violence, threat

Ratings info (May contain spoilers)

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS is a sci-fi action adventure in which a young woman becomes embroiled in a galactic conflict.

Violence

There are frequent scenes of moderate violence, including use of blasters and lightsabers, and dogfights between spaceships. Sight of blood and injury detail is limited and brief.









Threat

Occasional scenes of moderate threat include characters being interrogated using 'the Force', which it is implied causes them pain, and characters being held at lightsaber-point.

There is infrequent use of very mild bad language ('hell', 'damn').

Film themes and content

In groups, sort these content types from what would be **most sensitive** for someone around your age, to what would be **least sensitive** .

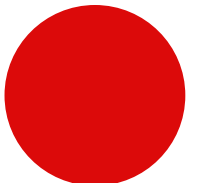
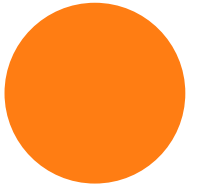
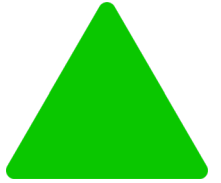
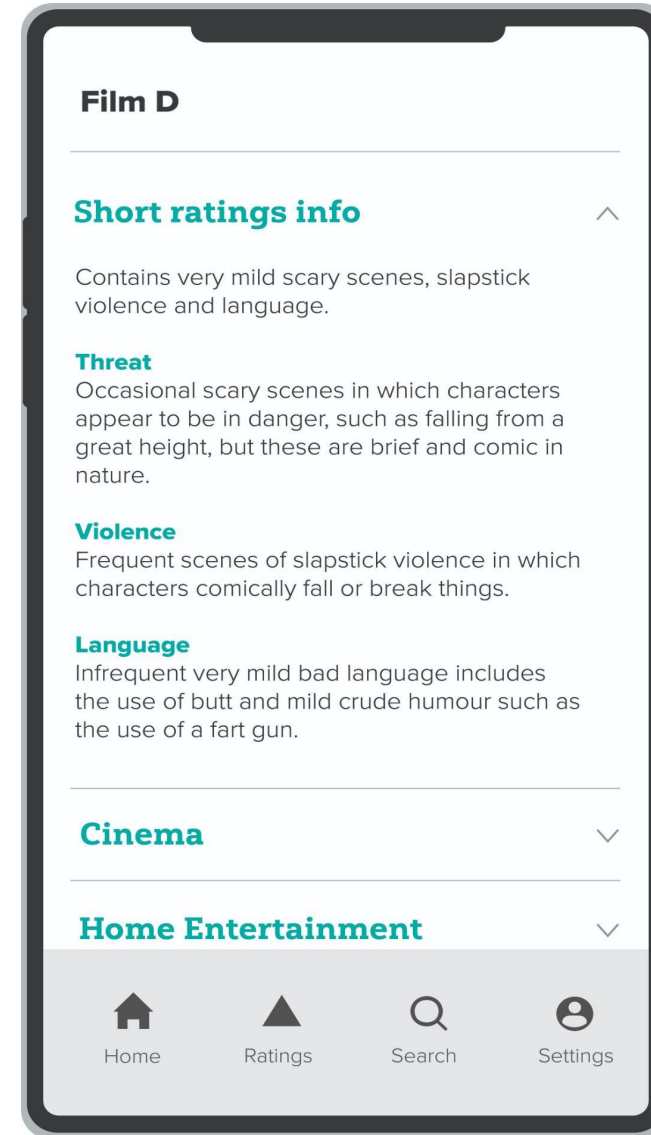
-  Dangerous behaviour
-  Discrimination
-  Drugs
-  Strong language
-  Nudity
-  Sex
-  Sexual violence or threat
-  Threat and horror

You decide

In groups, read the ratings info for each of the films.

As a group, agree on an age-rating for each film.

Be ready to explain one of your rating decisions to the class.

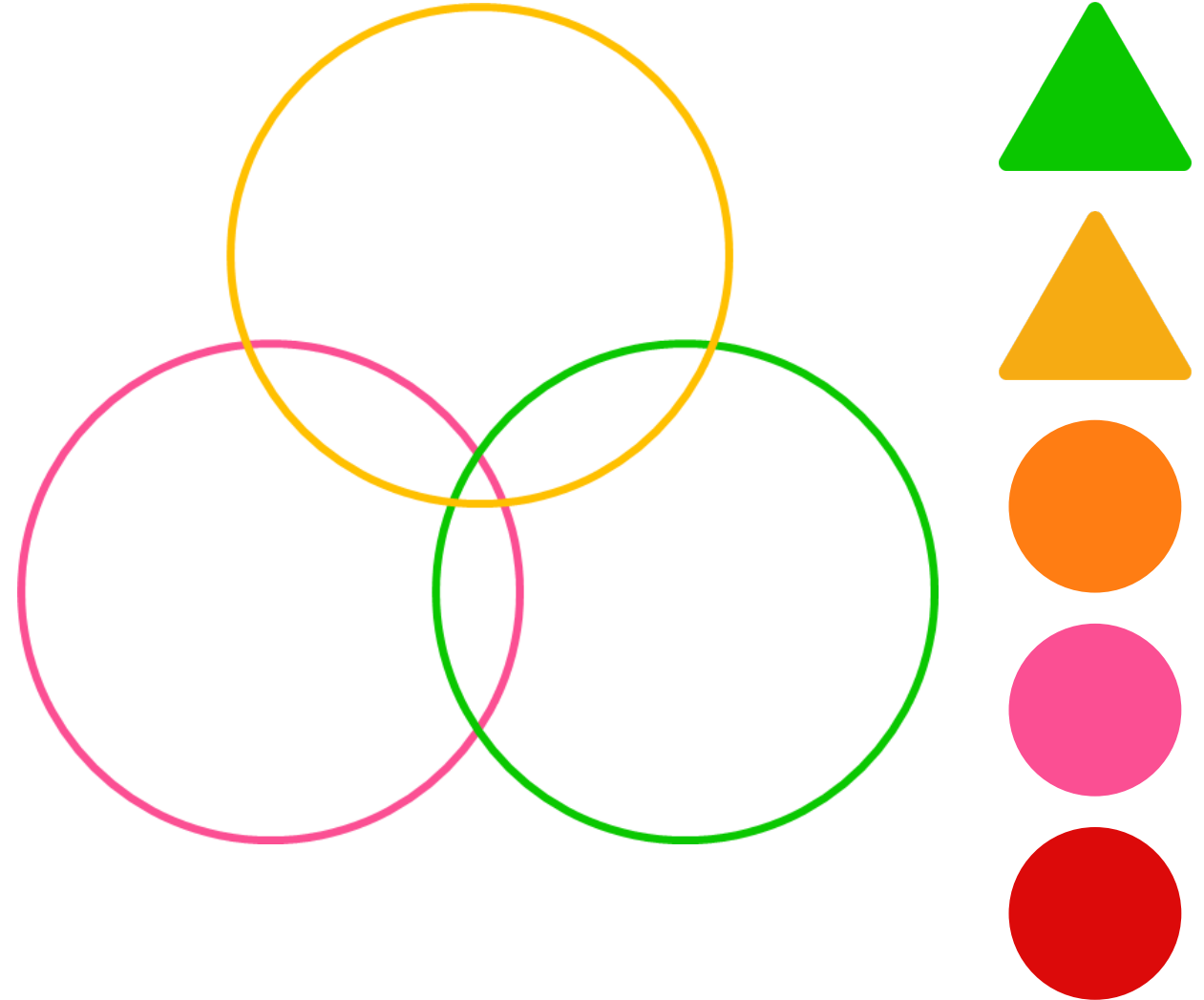


Choosing films

In groups, read the character descriptions.

Sort the film cards into the Venn diagram to show which characters you think they are suitable for.

Any films not suitable for any characters should go in the box at the bottom of the sheet.



Managing concerns

Dee

Hey, have you seen that film that Noah was talking about in the chat?

Jewel

Nah, not had time. Why? What's up?

It's kind of embarrassing, but last time I watched a film Noah liked I ended up having loads of nightmares. I still get worried about it. I don't know if this film's going to do the same.

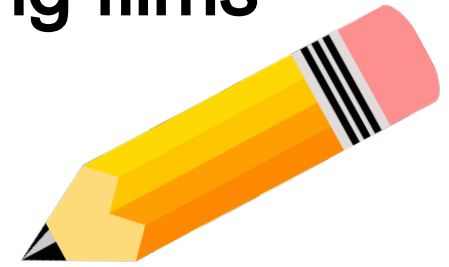
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What advice could Jewel give to Dee about how to manage their concerns?

**End of lesson
assessment:**

Top tips

**Using what you have learnt
this lesson, write three top
tips for selecting films**



Tip 1:



Tip 2:



Tip 3:

Reflecting on today's learning

Imagine you were in Dee's position.

- How confident do you feel about managing the situation and choosing suitable films?
- Where would you put yourself on a confidence continuum from 110? (10 is very confident)
- Has this changed from where you might have put yourself at the start of the lesson?

If you are concerned by content you view, you can speak to a trusted adult such as a parent or carer, or a member of school staff.

You can also access further information about films, age ratings and careers at the BBFC at their website: www.bbfc.co.uk/education



Extension activity

Questionnaire

Design a questionnaire for your friends and family about how they make film choices.



Conduct your questionnaire on up to 10 people



Report back your key findings



Are there any similarities or differences in how people make viewing choices?