

Vocabulary in Context

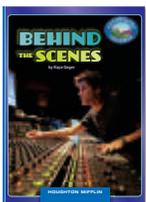


✓ TARGET VOCABULARY

entertaining
 promote
 focus
 advertise
 jolts
 critics
 target
 thrilling
 angles
 generated

Vocabulary Reader

Context Cards



1 entertaining

Going to a movie has been a fun and **entertaining** pastime for generations.



2 promote

Moviemakers show clips of exciting scenes to **promote** their movies.



3 focus

Moviemakers use cameras to **focus**, or concentrate, on each film shot.



4 advertise

Posters **advertise** movies. People know a film is coming when they see the poster.



COMMON CORE L.4.6 acquire and use general academic and domain-specific words and phrases

- ▶ Study each **Context Card**.
- ▶ Use a dictionary to help you pronounce these words.

5 **jolts**

Movies often include chase scenes so that viewers feel **jolts**, or bursts, of excitement.



6 **critics**

Critics give reviews of movies. Many people pay attention to these reviewers' opinions.



7 **target**

Some movies are made for kids. Kids are the **target** audience.



8 **thrilling**

Seeing a movie on a giant screen can be **thrilling**. Many people find it exciting.



9 **angles**

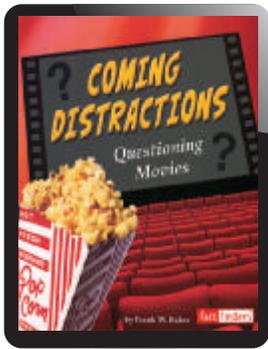
A movie scene is usually filmed from several **angles**, or positions.



10 **generated**

Sometimes a movie's success is **generated**, or created, mainly by word of mouth.





Read and Comprehend



✓ TARGET SKILL

Fact and Opinion As you read “Coming Distractions: Questioning Movies,” notice the facts and opinions that the author provides. A **fact** is a statement that can be proved true by checking a reference book or another resource. An **opinion** is a statement that expresses a thought or a belief. Also notice how the author uses reasons and evidence to support the facts and opinions he states. Use a graphic organizer like the one below to help you separate facts from opinions.

Fact	Opinion

✓ TARGET STRATEGY

Summarize When you **summarize** a text, you briefly restate the most important ideas in your own words. Summarizing can help you understand and remember what you read. As you read “Coming Distractions,” stop after each section to summarize the important parts of the text and to confirm your understanding.

PREVIEW THE TOPIC

Media

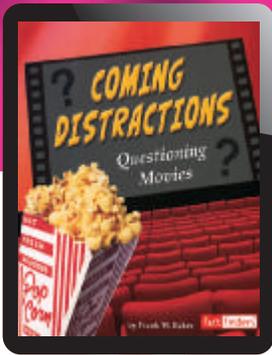
Communication is the exchange of information. A great deal of the information we receive comes from media. There are different types of media, and each type has a purpose. Newspapers and magazines inform readers about recent events and other news. Radios fill the air with music. TV shows and movies entertain us.

“Coming Distractions” explores how movie directors, in their particular form of media, use special tricks to influence the way audiences feel.



Lesson 7

ANCHOR TEXT



✓ TARGET SKILL

Fact and Opinion Look for statements that are facts and statements that are opinions. Notice how the author uses reasons and evidence to support his points.

✓ GENRE

An **informational text** gives facts and examples about a topic. As you read, look for:

- ▶ text structure, or the ways the ideas and information are organized
- ▶ facts and details about a subject
- ▶ photographs and captions



RI.4.8 explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support points

MEET THE AUTHOR

Frank W. Baker



Frank W. Baker was once a television news reporter. Today he travels around the United States,

encouraging students to question messages in the media. Movies are only one of his concerns. He also cautions young people about toy commercials that may be dishonest, about the health risks of not exercising enough, and about the problems caused by eating too much junk food.



COMING DISTRACTIONS

Questioning
Movies



HOT
FRESH
DELICIOUS

by
Frank W. Baker

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How are movies a form
of communication?

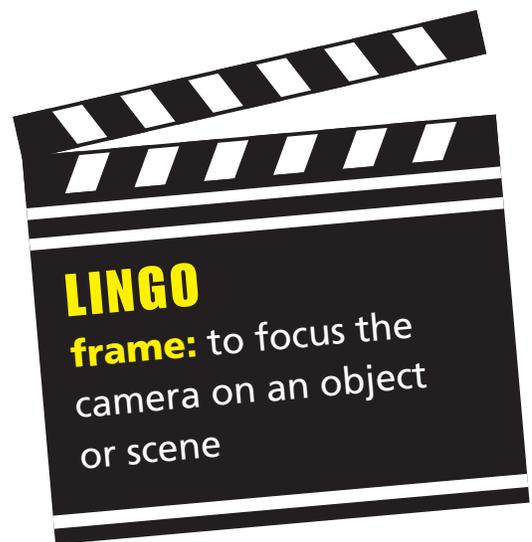
Movies are fun. There's no doubt about that. But sometimes movies don't give us the whole story. And that can be a problem. But never fear! There is an easy way to make sure we aren't influenced without knowing it. Think about what you see and ask questions.

What Is Left Out of the Message?

Every time cinematographers look through their camera they frame their shot. They **focus** on one thing. But just as important as what's in their frame is what isn't. Sometimes moviemakers leave things out of the frame or out of the script on purpose. But why would they do that? Well, there are a few reasons.

The "Numbing" Effect

One reason filmmakers leave things out is simply a length issue. If our legs fall asleep because the movie is too long, we're not going to like it. Moviemakers have to decide what to keep and what to cut.



Painting a “Bad” Picture

Sometimes movies leave things out that would make them lose momentum. Fast-paced, action-packed car chase movies are exciting to watch. Violent fight scenes are **thrilling** to see. But movies don’t always show the effects of these actions.

Watching people clean up the damage or go to the hospital just isn’t as fun. So even though the movie is **entertaining**, we have to remember that it’s not really how things would go down in real life.

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Fact and Opinion What reasons does the author give to support the opinion he shares in the first sentence?





Cameron Diaz in *Charlie's Angels* makes fighting in heels look easy.

Painting a “Pretty” Picture

Think about a movie dealing with ordinary people with real problems. Maybe a dad loses his job. Even without a job, the family still has a brand new car, a beautiful home, and fashionable clothes. How can they afford it? Moviemaking magic, that's how. A leading man doesn't look as good driving a rusty old car. A leading lady, even when she's fighting the bad guys, wears high heels. These tricks make for entertaining viewing, but they don't paint an accurate picture of real life.

Try It Out!

Imagine that you're writing a screenplay about your life. It's getting long, so you have to decide what to leave out. Make a list of things you would not put in a movie about you. Here are some things to consider:

- ◆ Do you show your bad habits? Why or why not? If you don't, does that change the story of the real you?
- ◆ Do you include situations where you got in trouble? Why or why not?

How Does the Message Get My Attention?

So now we know studios think a lot about who the movie is for, what they'd put in the movie, and what to leave out. But how do they get the word out? Movie studios **advertise** their movies like crazy. They market their films in places where their **target** audience will see it. Trailers for *Revenge of the Mighty Hamburger* won't be running during the evening news. Kids aren't watching TV then. But they'll be all over the TV right around the time school lets out!

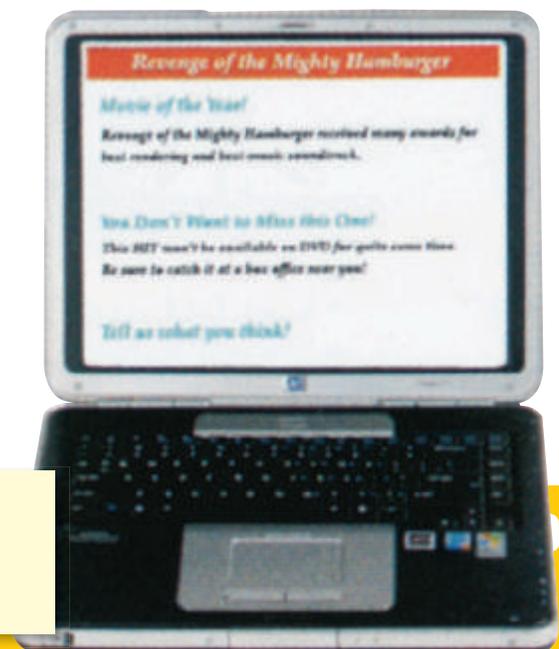
Movie studios use more than trailers to grab our attention. They use every marketing trick in the book.

Movie posters tell about important features of a movie. They list the title, the stars, and what happens.

Stars of the movie give lots of interviews on TV, on the radio, in magazines, and even on Web sites. Moviemakers hope the more you hear about the movie, the more interested you'll be.

Blogs, or Web logs, are becoming a popular way to **promote** movies. Bloggers write about movies to create more buzz.

Movie **critics** get to see movies before the public. Their reviews carry a lot of weight. Many people will go to see a movie that gets "two thumbs up."



Blogs are sometimes used to market movies.



Different types of lighting can make two images of the same person look very different.

Mixing Up a Movie

It takes a lot of ingredients to mix up a film. These ingredients all have to work together to keep us in our seats. Why does that matter? Well, if we aren't interested, we won't buy the products featured in the film or tell our friends to buy tickets.

In a movie, we see only what the camera sees. And moviemakers use this to their advantage. In a scene in *Jaws*, the director wanted the shark's point of view. So the camera became the shark. When the "shark" moved, the camera was panned. We don't see the shark, but we know it's after the swimmer.

The position of the lights can tell us a lot about what's happening. A character in a well-lit area is safe and happy. When a person's face is half in shadow, half in light we know she is doing something evil.

Moviemakers use CGI (Computer **Generated** Imagery) to keep the action going. Dangerous or imaginary scenes can be digitally created to look like anything they want. The character Gollum from the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy was made using CGI.



The character of Gollum was created using CGI.



LINGO

pan: to move the camera back and forth

ANALYZE THE TEXT

Explain Concepts and Ideas What concept is described in the section “Mixing Up a Movie”? Explain the concept in your own words.

Could you imagine *Star Wars* without the music? Music is a great trick to keep our attention. Generally, we don't even think about the music. But without it, movies just wouldn't be as exciting. Did you know editors dub in the sound track after the movie is filmed? The actors may not even hear the finished sound track until they see the final cut of the movie.



Jolts Per Minute

Lighting, music, camera angles, and special effects are all ingredients that make movies exciting and fun. But moviemakers have other tricks they use to keep us watching. One of these tricks is called jolts per minute (JPM). JPMs are fast, exciting quick cuts or action sequences that get you excited.



ANALYZE THE TEXT

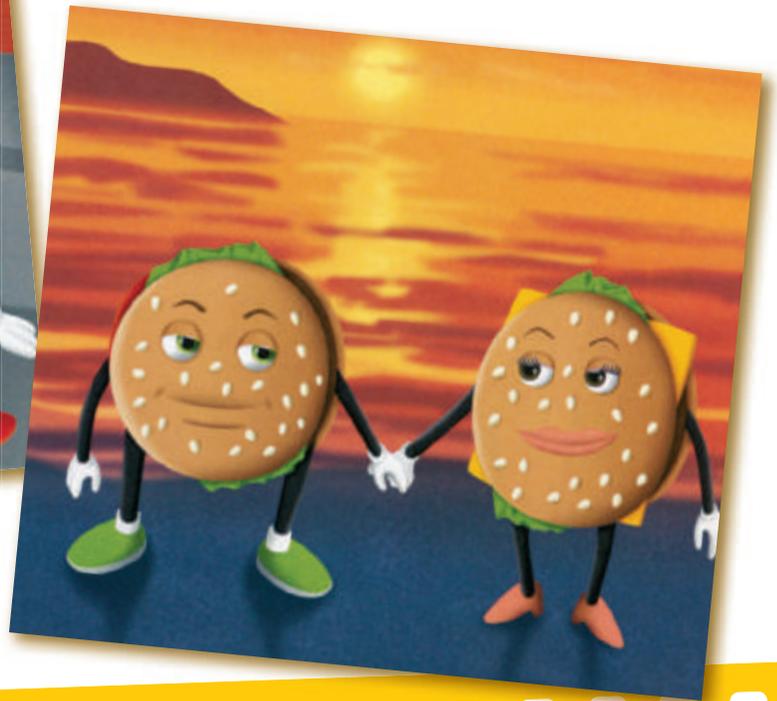
Domain-Specific Vocabulary What do the terms *dub* and *action sequence* mean? What do they have to do with the topic of making movies?

Try It Out!

Music can play a big role in a movie's JPMs. Suppose *Revenge of the Mighty Hamburger* needs a sound track. Get out your CD collection. Pick out some songs that would fit these scenes.

- ✦ The Mighty Hamburger is rolling down the hill on his skateboard going 60 miles per hour. The cops are chasing him and getting closer and closer.
- ✦ The Mighty Hamburger and a beautiful cheeseburger take a stroll along the beach at sunset.

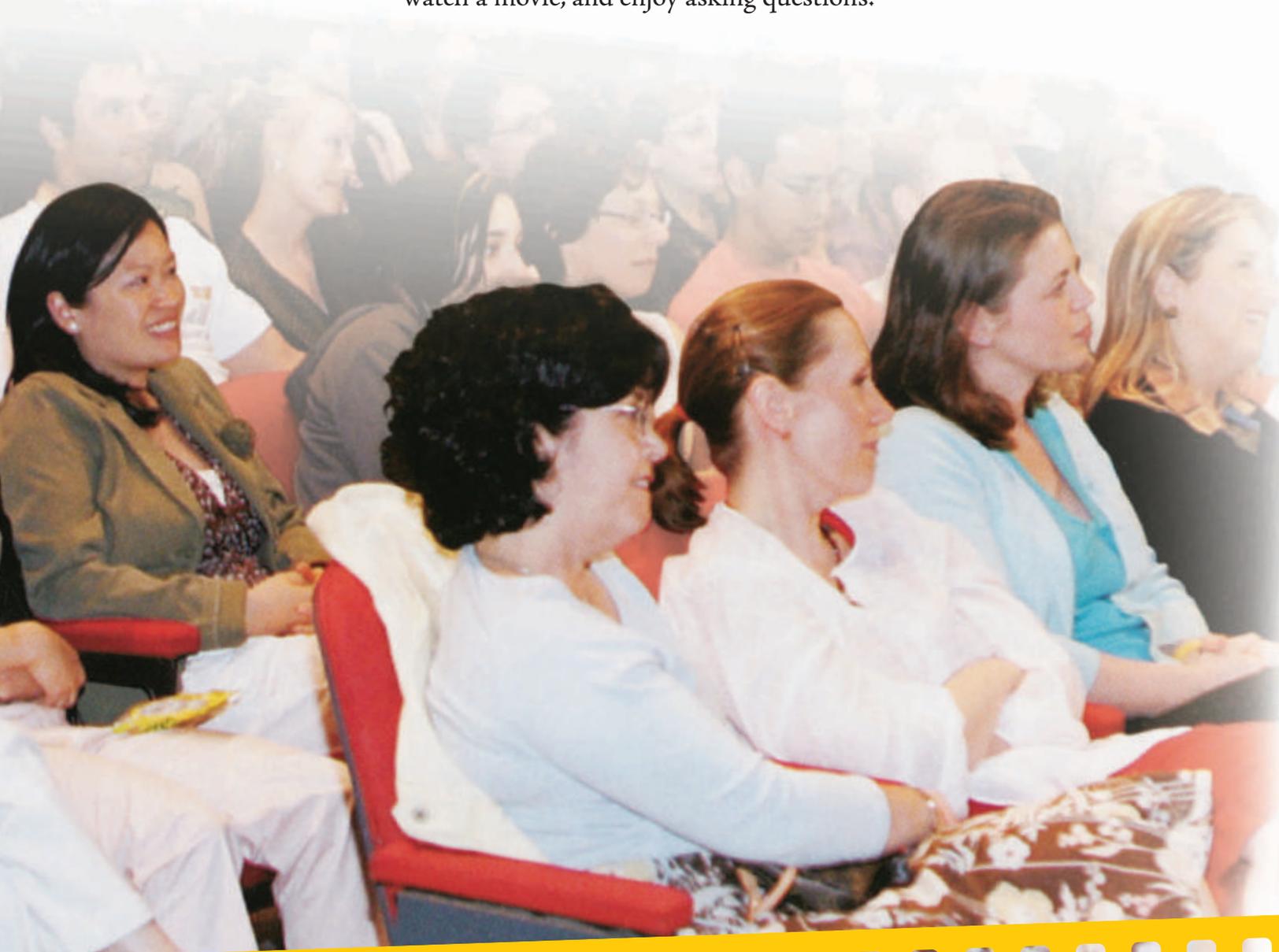
Did you use different kinds of music for each scene? Why or why not? Could you use something other than music to beef up a movie's JPMs?



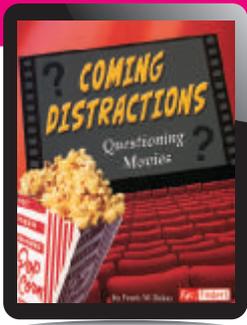


The End

Movies are great entertainment. And sometimes they even teach us a thing or two. That's why we watch them. What's cool, though, is that we don't have to believe everything a movie shows. It's totally our choice. So let's go pop some popcorn, watch a movie, and enjoy asking questions.



Dig Deeper



How to Analyze the Text

Use these pages to learn about Fact and Opinion, Explaining Concepts and Ideas, and Domain-Specific Vocabulary. Then read “Coming Distractions: Questioning Movies” again to apply what you learned.

Fact and Opinion

Informational texts, such as “Coming Distractions,” often contain a mix of **facts** and **opinions**. A fact is a statement that can be proved true by checking a reference book or an online resource. An opinion is a statement that expresses a feeling or belief. An opinion cannot be proved.

Authors of informational text must give reasons and evidence to support their opinions. Often, writers support their points by giving facts. Turn to page 204. What opinions does the author state on this page? How do you know they are opinions? What facts does the author present to support his opinions?

Fact	Opinion



RI.4.1 refer to details and examples when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences; **RI.4.3** explain events/procedures/ ideas/concepts in a text; **RI.4.4** determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; **L.4.6** acquire and use general academic and domain-specific words and phrases



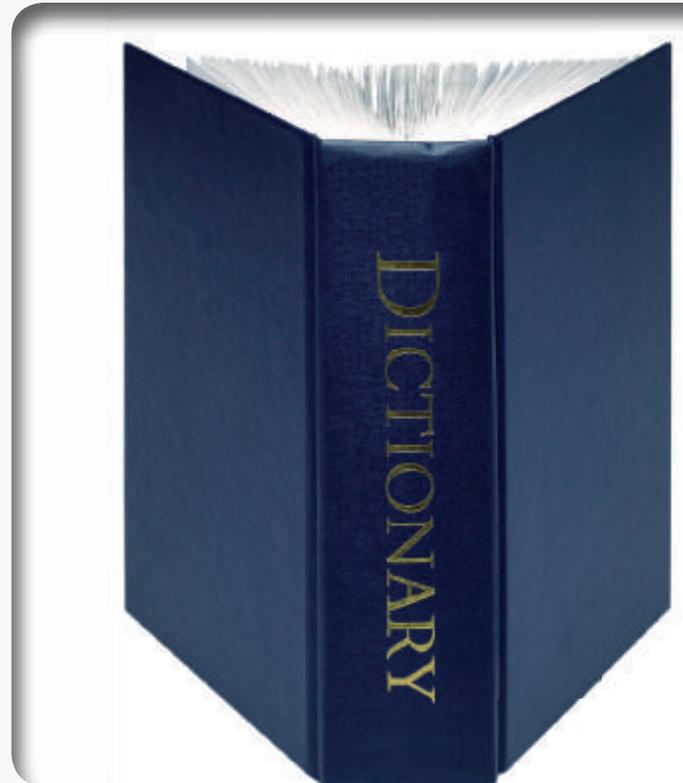
Explain Concepts and Ideas

Imagine that you want to explain an idea or a concept you learned about in “Coming Distractions.” How would you begin? First, choose the concept you would like to explain, such as how moviemakers use camera angles and light. Reread the part of the text that discusses this concept. Make sure you fully understand what the author has said. Then explain the concept in your own words.



Domain-Specific Vocabulary

Authors often use specific words to express their ideas clearly. Words that are used mainly in one type of business or field of study are called **jargon** or **domain-specific vocabulary**. The word *pan* is an example of movie jargon. *Pan* is used in the movie business to describe the way a camera follows a moving object or gives a wider view of a scene.



Your Turn



RETURN TO THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION

**Turn
and
Talk**

Review the selection with a partner to prepare to discuss this question: *How are movies a form of communication?* As you talk with your partner, refer to text evidence. Also take turns explaining the key ideas in your discussion.



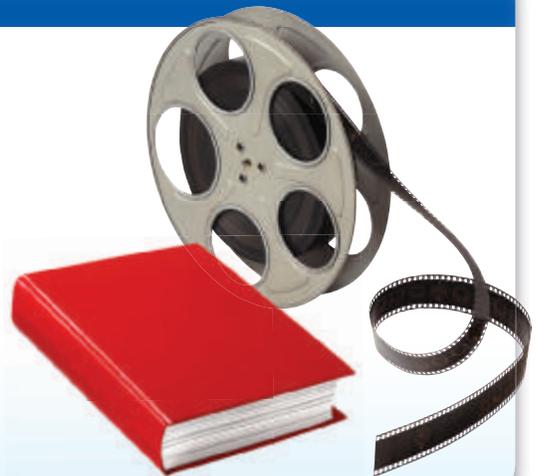
Classroom Conversation

Continue your discussion of “Coming Distractions” by explaining your answers to these questions:

- 1 What factors might a director consider when deciding what to leave out of a scene in a movie?
- 2 What questions might you ask the next time you see a movie?
- 3 Why do you think it is important to ask questions when you watch movies?

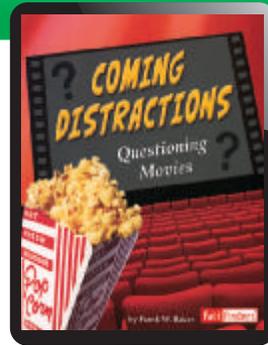
LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Summarize Write a summary of a fiction selection you have already read or of your favorite story. Be sure to include important details about the characters, setting, and events. Then explain which techniques you would use—for example, music, lighting, or camera angles—if you were making a movie of the story.



WRITE ABOUT READING

Response “Coming Distractions” tells how filmmakers use techniques to influence how we experience movies. Write a paragraph about one of your favorite movies. What techniques described in “Coming Distractions” does the film use? How do these techniques help make the movie memorable? Include text evidence from the selection. Conclude by restating your opinion.



Writing Tip

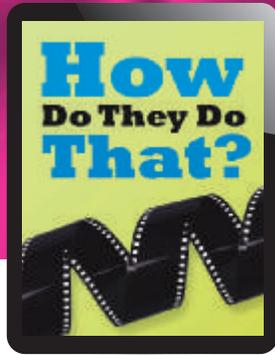
Use precise, domain-specific words. Make sure that verbs are in the correct tense and agree with the subjects in the sentences.



RL.4.2 determine theme from details/summarize; **RI.4.1** refer to details and examples when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences; **W.4.1b** provide reasons supported by facts and details; **W.4.1d** provide a concluding statement or section; **W.4.9b** apply grade 4 Reading standards to informational texts; **SL.4.1a** come to discussions prepared/explicitly draw on preparation and other information about the topic

Lesson 7

INFORMATIONAL TEXT



✓ GENRE

Informational text, such as this magazine article, gives facts and examples about a topic.

✓ TEXT FOCUS

Photographs and Captions Informational text generally includes photographs. A caption explains what an individual photograph shows and often includes additional information about the topic.



RI.4.7 interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively

How Do They Do That?

by Allan Giles

Today's movies contain all sorts of make-believe characters and dangerous or seemingly impossible sequences. How do moviemakers create such characters and actions? How do they make them look believable? They use special effects.

There are many different kinds of special effects used in movies. Some examples include computer animation, blue-screen or green-screen filming, and model making. Others are makeup effects, stunt effects, and sound effects. The whole movie industry changes as new special-effects techniques are developed. New techniques lead to more exciting possibilities!

The movie *Jurassic Park* won awards for special effects. Director Steven Spielberg and his team of special-effects artists needed to make a variety of dinosaurs seem to come to life. They worked for three years to update old special-effects technologies and to develop new ones for the film.

One team of special-effects artists and engineers worked to create a lifelike *Tyrannosaurus rex*. First, the 20-foot tall creature was made from a fiberglass frame and 3,000 pounds of clay. This was used to create a mold that was filled with latex to form the flexible skin. It was mounted on a simulator machine. The dinosaur's movements were created through a computer control board.



Imagine you are a movie director. The movie calls for an actress to hang from the side of a skyscraper. You don't want to risk the actress's life by asking her to dangle hundreds of feet in the air. So how do you film this in a way that looks realistic? You use a blue screen or green screen.

Filmmakers first film the background scene. In this case, they film the side of a skyscraper. Then, in the movie studio, they film the actress hanging from a rope in front of a blue or green screen. So now there are two pieces of film. One has the background scene of the skyscraper. One has the actress.

Then the special-effects department uses special filters to block out the green background to create a silhouette of the actress. This silhouette is then placed on the skyscraper background. Finally, they add the film of the actress in her silhouette.

◀ If you've ever seen a weather map on the news, you've seen the result of the green-screen process.

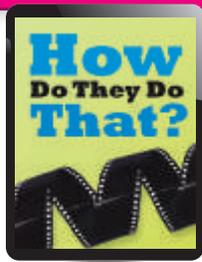
Another movie special effect is Computer-Generated Imagery (or CGI). This technology has seen great advancements in the past twenty years. Some films, such as the *Shrek* movies, are entirely computer generated. Others, such as *Avatar*, combine computer-generated effects with live actors.

One of the most popular CGI effects is the motion-capture technique used in *Avatar*. An actor wears special equipment with sensors placed at various points around the body. The actor's movements are captured, or copied, by special software. These movements are transformed into realistic computer simulations.



◀ The red lights on this special suit help the computer record what the actor does. The movements of the robot on the screen are exactly the same as the actor's movements.

All these special-effects technologies allow filmmakers to create movies that never could have been created before. Filmmakers can now produce an unlimited variety of characters, landscapes, and even virtual worlds through the use of special effects. As special-effects techniques continue to advance, so will the ability of movies to make the impossible seem possible.



Compare Texts

TEXT TO TEXT

Compare a Radio Play and a Movie With a partner, discuss the special effects described in “Coming Distractions” and “How Do They Do That?” Then think back to the radio play “Invasion from Mars.” How would the play be different if it were a movie with special effects? Write a paragraph that describes what special effects could be used in a movie of “Invasion from Mars.”



TEXT TO SELF

Analyze Advertising Think of an advertisement you have seen recently for sodas or snack foods. What effect are these ads supposed to have on viewers? How do you know? Discuss with a partner whether you think this effect is positive or negative and why you think so.



TEXT TO WORLD

Compare Special Effects Compare and contrast the information presented in “Coming Distractions” with that of “How Do They Do That?” What are some other special effects that you have seen in movies? Discuss with your partner how these special effects might have affected the audience. Use text evidence to support your thoughts.



RL.4.7 make connections between the text and a visual or oral presentation of it; **RI.4.1** refer to details and examples when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences; **RI.4.9** integrate information from two texts on the same topic; **SL.4.1a** come to discussions prepared/explicitly draw on preparation and other information about the topic

Grammar



What Are Verb Tenses? A verb in the **present tense** tells about action that is happening now or that happens over and over. A verb in the **past tense** tells about action that happened in the past. A verb in the **future tense** tells about what will happen in the future.

To form the past tense of a **regular verb**, add *-ed* to its present form. This is called the **past participle**. Verbs that do not add *-ed* to show past action are called **irregular verbs**. Another way to form the past tense is by using a helping verb, such as *have* or *has*, with the past participle. Verbs in the future tense use the helping verb *will*.

Sentence	Tense of Verb
Filmmakers include exciting scenes.	present tense
The director filmed a car chase.	past tense, regular verb
Millions of people have seen the movie.	past tense, irregular verb
You will see this chase in an ad.	future tense

Try This!

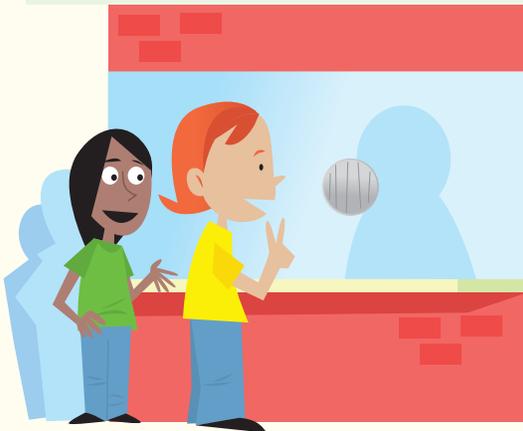
Copy these sentences onto another sheet of paper. Circle the verb in each sentence. Label each as **present tense**, **past tense**, or **future tense**.

- 1 Marla will write about the film on her blog.
- 2 Jerome began the movie yesterday.
- 3 She started her blog last month.
- 4 He likes action movies.

When you write, be careful to use verb tenses correctly to show when events happened. Change tense only to show a change in time. Make sure your verbs agree with the subject and that you have formed the past tense correctly.

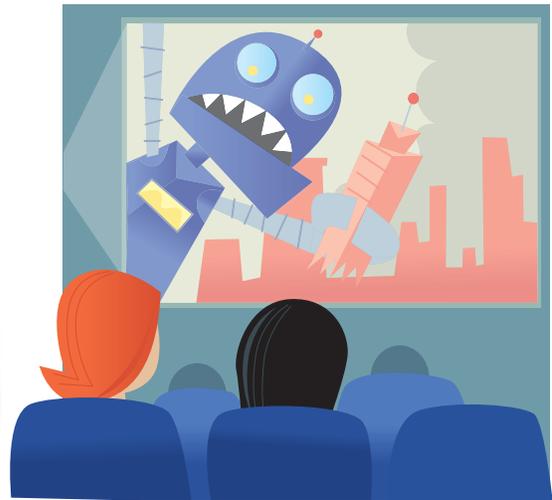
Incorrect Verb Agreement

NOW PLAYING! The Robot That Ate Chicago



Hayley and I **went** to the movies. We **watch** *The Robot That Ate Chicago*. We **knowed** it would be scary, but we **see** it again tomorrow!

Correct Verb Agreement



Hayley and I **went** to the movies. We **watched** *The Robot That Ate Chicago*. We **knew** it would be scary, but we **will see** it again tomorrow!



Connect Grammar to Writing

As you revise your informational paragraph, look carefully at verb tenses. Make sure that subjects and verbs agree and that you have spelled irregular past-tense verbs correctly.



W.4.2a introduce a topic and group related information/include formatting, illustrations, and multimedia; **W.4.2b** develop the topic with facts, definitions, details, quotations, or other information and examples; **W.4.2d** use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary; **L.4.3a** choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely

Informative Writing

Word Choice “Coming Distractions” is an informational text about making movies. When you write an informational paragraph, use precise language to explain your topic. Define any words that your readers might not know. Develop your topic by providing facts, concrete details, and examples.



Marcela drafted an informational paragraph about how a movie director can create a scary mood. She added two sentences near the beginning of the paragraph to state her topic clearly. Later, she replaced vague words with precise ones.

Revised Draft

Think about the last scary movie you saw. You were sitting in the theater and ~~holding~~^{gripping} the armrests as your heart ~~beat~~^{pounded}.

You probably didn't stop to think about how the movie director ~~creates~~^{created} that feeling of fear. These include special uses of lighting, ~~visuals~~^{camera angles}, and sound.

Movie directors use many tricks to frighten audiences.



Writing Traits Checklist

- Ideas**
Did I use concrete details and examples to explain my ideas?
- Organization**
Did I state my topic at the beginning?
- Word Choice**
Did I use precise language and define topic-specific words?
- Voice**
Did I express ideas in my own way?
- Sentence Fluency**
Did I change verb tense when needed?
- Conventions**
Did I use correct spelling and grammar?

Final Copy

Making It Scary

by Marcela Cabral

Think about the last scary movie you saw. You were sitting in the theater and gripping the armrests as your heart pounded. You probably didn't stop to think about how the movie director created that feeling of fear. Movie directors use many tricks to frighten audiences. These include special uses of lighting, camera angles, and sound. For example, imagine a scene of a man alone in a room at night. The light flickers and goes out. The sound of footsteps gets louder and louder, and the door slowly creaks open. The camera zooms in on, or gets a close-up of, the man's terrified face. Are you scared yet? You bet you are! The director used lighting, sounds, and camera angles to create a spooky, scary mood. Your emotions were being influenced, and you didn't even know it! The next time you see a scary movie, don't just sit there. Try to figure out how the director made it scary.

Reading as a Writer

Find the sentence in Marcela's paragraph that states the topic. Does it help you understand what her writing is about? Does she use precise words?

In my final paper, I defined words specific to movie making that my readers might not know. I also made sure not to change verb tenses without a reason.

