

Movies in the 1930s Guided Reading & Multiple Choice

Guided Reading: *Fill in the blanks below to create complete sentences.*

1. All movies prior to *The Jazz Singer* had been _____ films.
2. There were many big-name stars throughout the decade, including _____, James Cagney, and Edward G. Robinson.
3. America became fascinated with young actors and actresses like Mickey Rooney, _____, and Shirley Temple.
4. Clark Gable will be best remembered for his role as _____ in 1939's *Gone with the Wind*.
5. *Gone with the Wind* grossed nearly _____ in theaters.
6. *Gone with the Wind*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Stage Coach*, and _____ were all released in 1939.
7. Movie _____ of the 1930s were grand, elegant structures.
8. The animated shorts, which showed before a movie, introduced movie-goers to characters such as _____ and Mickey Mouse.
9. Most matinees were either science-fiction or _____ films.
10. In the evening, ticket prices averaged about _____.

Vocabulary: *Match each word with its correct definition. Consider how the word is used in the lesson. This might help you define each term. Use a dictionary to help if necessary.*

- a. debut
- b. acclaim
- c. inflation

- d. luxurious
- e. matinee

11. _____ to salute with enthusiastic approval
12. _____ the first appearance of something
13. _____ a performance held in the daytime, usually in the afternoon
14. _____ a rise in the level of prices over time
15. _____ expensive, or overly elaborate

Summarize: Answer the following questions in the space provided. Attempt to respond in a complete sentence for each question. Be sure to use correct capitalization and punctuation!

1. Who was the biggest movie star of the 1930s?
2. What might a viewer have seen before a movie, other than an animated short?
3. Which year is often regarded as the best year in cinematic history?
4. Where were people going to forget the struggles of their daily life during the Great Depression?
5. Why were ticket prices higher in the evening?
6. How many movie tickets were being sold every week during the Great Depression?

Multiple Choice: Select the choice that completes the statement or answers the question.

1. _____ Which of the following correctly describes why *The Jazz Singer* was significant?
 - a. *The Jazz Singer* was the first movie to feature color.
 - b. *The Jazz Singer* was the first movie to be displayed in 3D.
 - c. *The Jazz Singer* was the first movie to star Shirley Temple.
 - d. *The Jazz Singer* was the first movie to feature sound.
2. _____ Which of the following statements about Clark Gable is an opinion?
 - a. From 1930-1939, Clark Gable starred in 39 movies.
 - b. Clark Gable portrayed many different types of characters in his movies.
 - c. Clark Gable's greatest role was in *Gone with the Wind*.
 - d. One of the biggest movie stars of the decade was Clark Gable.
3. _____ Which of the following is not mentioned as a feature of a 1930s theater?
 - a. concession stands with high priced premium food items
 - b. chandeliers or other luxurious features in the lobby
 - c. nice, plush seats in the theaters
 - d. an ornate curtain which opened to reveal the screen
4. _____ Which of the following best explains why afternoon matinees would end in a "cliff-hanger"?
 - a. All movies of that era ended in a cliff-hanger, that's just the way movies were made.
 - b. Many movies were rushed through production, so viewers only saw part of the finished film.
 - c. The films were made this way in an effort to get kids to return and see the next portion.
 - d. Since these shows were lower priced, viewers were only allowed to see part of the movie.
5. _____ Which of the following best describes what movies meant to 1930s audiences?
 - a. Audiences of the 1930s believed the events on screen were really happening.
 - b. The movies provided much needed relief from the struggles of daily life.
 - c. Only the wealthy could afford it, so going to the movies was a status symbol.
 - d. Films were only regarded as a fad, and most thought movie theaters were for kids.

