



What movies best embody society?

01 Write as many movie genres as you can think of in one minute. Compare with your classmates to see who has the most.

02 Read “Popcorn Films.” Write the name of the movie genre next to the words. Then, add two more words to describe each genre.

1. _____: untamed, bravado, tough,

2. _____: escapism, energetic, romance,

3. _____: disenchantment, cynical,

existentialist, _____

03 Read the text again. Write the letter of the definition next to its word.

1. to attend in large numbers

☐

a. cynical

2. wild or savage

☐

b. escapism

3. overly showy display of courage

☐

c. untamed

4. the avoidance of reality through entertainment

☐

d. bravado

5. distrusting another's motives

☐

e. disenchantment

6. disappointment or disillusionment

☐

f. flocked

Popcorn Films

Hollywood, the birthplace of modern cinema, reached its peak in the Golden Age, which many consider to be the 1930s to the 1950s. During the Great Depression and World War II, viewers **flocked** to the cinema to escape their depressing realities in numbers that put viewing today to shame. Most film genres that became popular during that time allowed audiences to get away from it all.



At their peak, over 100 Westerns were made a year. Starring tough guys in the so-called **untamed** western territories of the United States, Westerns were popular because they showed people reacting to onerous situations with bravery and **bravado**. When there were international conflicts and hard times, audiences liked to see the “bad guy” get taken down in two hours.

Musicals were also wildly popular during this period because they epitomized **escapism**. Singers enthralled audiences with unforgettable tunes while dancers glided across the screen, awakening a sense of romance or frenetic energy. Dance halls were popular then, so moviegoers could replicate the moves from the screen while on the town.

Unlike the previous two genres, film noir became a staple after World War II due to **disenchantment**. Frustrated by the unstable economy and continued internal political struggles, there was a collective sense of uncertainty. Thus, the public was drawn to the American crime dramas featuring a mix of organized crime, **cynical** heroes, and existentialist plots.



04 With a classmate, discuss the questions below.

- › Which of the movie genres would you prefer to watch? Why?
- › Which of these genres is still popular? Why?
- › Which of these genres is no longer popular? Why?

05 If the underlined words are correct, write "C." If they are incorrect, write "I" and correct them.

1. Reading at home, Emily can focus well. ☐
2. Finished the noir film, Juan became lost in his thoughts. ☐
3. Having watched his first Western, Rodrigo became obsessed with learning about the Wild West. ☐
4. Ridden their skateboards, Julian and Mike discussed what film they were going to see later that night. ☐
5. Having released in the 1920s, *Top Hat* became an instant recipe for successful musical. ☐

07 Add a participle clause to the sentences below.

1. _____
Lorna began to understand the history of the time better.
2. _____
Alison decided to take up ballroom dancing.
3. _____
Liam decided to start wearing cowboy boots.
4. _____
Leo tried to convince his friends to go with him.
5. _____
the film was restored by film historians.
6. _____
Violet was rewatching old musicals for inspiration.

06 With a classmate, investigate a typical Hollywood film from the Golden Age. In the organizer below, write a synopsis of it.

08 Read the film synopses written by different groups in Exercise 6. Categorize the films and write a brief definition of each category.

