



How is art used for social change?

01 With a classmate, discuss the following questions.

1. What film have you seen that shows a person or group being treated unfairly? What happened?
2. Why do filmmakers depict injustice in their movies?
3. Do films about unfair treatment help us understand real-world problems? Why or why not?

02 Read "Around the World in a Weekend!" and identify if the statements are true "T," false "F," or not given "NG."

1. Hollywood films are never used to promote social change.



2. *Z* is a fictional but convincing story of political assassination.



3. *Dodes'ka-den* was universally loved when it came out.



4. Different regions of the world became recognized for their filmmaking in the 1960s.



5. Responses to colonialism were a common theme in the international films of the 1960s and 1970s.



03 Using the words in bold, write an email to a friend recommending the film festival and one of the films in particular. Give reasons for your choice.

04 Work in a group. Discuss the following questions.

- › Are films a good way to learn about history? Why?
- › Can we understand different cultures through films? Why or why not?
- › What value do film festivals like RetroReel have in communicating present and past social struggles?

Around the World in a Weekend!

Welcome to RetroReel International Film Festival, showcasing iconic films from around the world from the 1960s and 1970s, known as the turning point of world cinema, packed with experimental formats and powerful storytelling, reflecting a diversity of voices and approaches. Many films from around the world, tackling significant topics such as **colonialism** and **identity**, will also be screened. Here are some of the films we'll be presenting:

1. *8 1/2* (Italy, 1963). This is Federico Fellini's iconic experimental film within a film. It uses inner thought and a **non-linear storyline** to challenge its audience. It is not easy to follow, yet it is a classic for those interested in filmmaking. In addition, it demonstrates a clear break with traditional Hollywood-style films.
2. *Z* (Greece/France, 1969). Costa-Gavras directed this film. Based on a true story of **political assassination**, corruption, and intrigue, *Z* tells the story of the social struggle of a country in conflict and those who refuse to be silenced.
3. *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly* (Italy/Spain, 1966). This film, directed by Sergio Leone, is an iconic example of the Spaghetti Western genre. It uses classic Hollywood western themes but is filmed in a highly stylized way and filled with antiheroes like Clint Eastwood's 'The Good.' The Spaghetti Western genre was not universally adored; however, it is **revered** in film circles for its unique style.
4. *Dodes'ka-den* (Japan, 1970). This film, directed by Akira Kurosawa, paints a mosaic of broken dreams, resilience, and the tragic beauty of human delusion and hope of the intertwined lives of the characters portrayed here. Despite being Kurosawa's first color film, it was a total commercial failure. Over time, it has gained recognition for its bold visual style, empathy for marginalized Japan, and poetic structure.
5. *Easy Rider* (United States, 1969). Known to be the epitome of independent filmmaking, this low-budget biker movie was directed by Dennis Hopper. Though the director thought it would flop with a budget under \$400,000, it grossed over \$60 million. It became a cultural icon, inspiring the rise of a **counterculture** and turning Hollywood upside down.



05

Identify if the linking adverbials are correct “C” or incorrect “I.” If they’re incorrect, explain why and change the incorrect adverbials.

1. Films about identity often explore colonialism; however, they show cultural conflict.
2. Colonialism is a major theme in African cinema; therefore, many stories focus on resistance and recovery.
3. Many films reveal the effects of racism; nevertheless, they aim to raise awareness and promote change.
4. Gender inequality is highlighted in films from different regions; yet, some movies show more progressive roles for women.
5. Some directors show the impact of economic inequality; afterward, characters often live in unstable conditions.



06

Expand the mini conversation using the linking adverbials in the word bank.

because of this so in contrast
afterward in addition moreover



Let's go to the RetroReel Film Festival!

What's that?

07

Write an argument for or against using film as a tool for social change. Use the linking adverbials from Exercises 5 and 6.

08

Imagine you've been invited to choose a film from your country to include in the RetroReel Film Festival. Follow the instructions.

1. Individually, research possible films.
2. As a group, discuss the best option.
3. Create a brief explanation of why you chose this film.
4. Present your argument to other groups.
5. As a class, choose the film you want to include.