

plays like the computer games it predicted. I wonder, too, if Lucas could have come up with a more challenging philosophy behind the Force. As Kenobi explains it, it's basically just going with the flow. What if Lucas had pushed a little further to include elements of non-violence or ideas about intergalactic conservation? (It's a great waste of resources to blow up star systems.)

The films that will live forever are the simplest-seeming ones. They have profound depths, but their surfaces are as clear to an audience as a beloved old story. The way I know this is because the stories that seem immortal—the “Odyssey,” the “Tale of Genji,” “Don Quixote,” “David Copperfield,” “Huckleberry Finn”—are all the same: a brave but flawed hero, a quest, colorful people and places, sidekicks, the discovery of life's underlying truths. If I were asked to say with certainty which movies will still be widely known a century or two from now, I would list “2001,” and “The Wizard of Oz,” and Keaton and Chaplin, and Astaire and Rogers, and probably “Casablanca” . . . and “Star Wars,” for sure.

Review and Assess

Thinking About the Selections

1. **Respond:** Which aspect of *Star Wars* did you find most interesting or surprising in either review?
2. (a) **Recall:** According to Canby, what are two sources that inspired *Star Wars*? (b) **Compare:** In what ways is the film like these sources? (c) **Contrast:** What sets the film apart from them?
3. (a) **Infer:** Did Canby enjoy watching *Star Wars*? (b) **Support:** Give evidence to support your answer.
4. (a) **Recall:** Give two examples of aspects of the newer version of the film that, according to Roger Ebert's review, differ from the original. (b) **Infer:** What is Ebert's attitude toward these changes?
5. (a) **Recall:** What “shocks” does Lucas include at the beginning of *Star Wars*? (b) **Infer:** How does Ebert feel about these innovations? Explain.
6. (a) **Recall:** According to Ebert, what quality does *Star Wars* have in common with *Birth of a Nation* and *Citizen Kane*? (b) **Analyze:** How were all three breakthrough films?
7. (a) **Analyze:** In what ways does *Star Wars* fit Ebert's statement: “The films that will live forever are the simplest-seeming ones”? (b) **Make a Judgment:** Which movies do you think will be widely known a century or two from now? Why?

Roger Ebert

(b. 1942)



Along with fellow Chicagoan Gene Siskel (who died in 1999), Roger Ebert made famous the thumbs up and

thumbs down symbols to movies worth seeing or avoiding. Siskel and Ebert were longtime cohosts of a weekly television program of movie reviews.

Ebert's reviews also appear in the *Chicago Sun-Times* and two hundred other newspapers around the country. He has won a Pulitzer Prize for his work. About viewing movies he has said, “The audience is the dark, lined up facing the screen. The light comes from behind their heads—from back there where dreams come true.”

Review

Literary

Critical

1. What
2. (a)
3. (a)

Comparing

4. In what
5. How
6. (a)
7. Which

Reading

Identifying

8. On a

9. What

Extend U

10. Media