

READING An Online Forum

1 Read the posts in the forum. Which writer mentions ... ?

- 1 a family tradition
- 2 inequality
- 3 the length of the film
- 4 a family member of a star
- 5 specific songs
- 6 personal relationships between musicians
- 7 a personal connection to the subject of the film

2 Choose the correct answer.

- 1 Since watching the documentary *20 Feet from Stardom*, Emma has ...
 - a learned a lot about the Rolling Stones
 - b learned the chorus of "Young Americans"
 - c been listening to music differently
 - d started to listen to more music from the 1960s
- 2 What does Mark explain?
 - a the popularity of the Beach Boys
 - b the importance of the "California sound"
 - c the scenery in Laurel Canyon
 - d the meaning of the film's title
- 3 What can we infer from Jason's last sentence?
 - a His parents dislike music from the 60s and 70s.
 - b His parents had a different image of the bands.
 - c His parents were once in the music industry.
 - d The film didn't interest his parents.
- 4 What do you think is meant by the phrase "rock's invisible heroes"?
 - a Roadies aren't appreciated by the performers they work for.
 - b Roadies work harder than performers.
 - c Roadies don't appear on the stage.
 - d Audiences aren't aware of the contribution of roadies.

3 Find words in the text that mean:

- 1 without being named or getting recognition for doing something (Emma)
- 2 part of a song that is repeated (Emma)
- 3 part of a film or video showing an event (Mark)
- 4 additions or details that improve something (Jason)
- 5 describes or reflects something (Lynda)

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Culture Share: Forum on Books, Music, Films & More



This week's focus is on music documentaries!
Share your favourites!



Emma

The excellent documentary *20 Feet from Stardom* is about female backup singers from the 1960s to today. Backup singers were – and often still are – underpaid and uncredited for their work on the stage or in the recording studio. But as the film shows, their part of a song is often the most memorable – like the solo in the Rolling Stones song "Gimme Shelter" and the chorus in David Bowie's "Young Americans". It's got me listening to songs in a new way!



Mark

I watched *Echo in the Canyon* because my filmmaking teacher showed it in class. It's about bands that hit the big time with the "California sound" in the mid-1960s, such as the Beach Boys, Buffalo Springfield and the Mamas & the Papas. Living in the same Los Angeles neighbourhood of Laurel Canyon, these musicians had close relationships with each other and influenced one another. The film includes footage from recording sessions, live performances and recent interviews. And guess who conducts the interviews? Jakob Dylan, Bob Dylan's son!



Jason

In my family, we take turns choosing a film to watch together each week. My parents recently chose *The Wrecking Crew*. This was the nickname for a group of 20 studio musicians in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 70s who were the musicians on many recordings by bands such as the Byrds and the Mamas & the Papas. They also improved songs with new arrangements and creative touches. The songs probably wouldn't have become hits without them. Until recently, very few people knew what an impact they had on music. My parents were surprised to have found out this information about some of their favourite bands.



Lynda

I really loved *Miles to Go Before I Sleep* (2016). It's about roadies – the instrument technicians and sound and lighting engineers which no rock tour could ever manage without. The film calls them "rock's invisible heroes". I can relate to that a bit, because I'm in my school's audiovisual tech team. The film is only 35 minutes long, but it captures the excitement and exhaustion of life as a roadie and has incredible interviews with the men and women who do these tough jobs and who clearly love the music.

WRITING A Review

- 1 Complete the second sentence with a suitable pronoun in each blank.
 - 1 They're shooting the film now. will come out in six months.
 - 2 I recommend the series *Derry Girls* and *The A List*. Both of have interesting teenage characters.
 - 3 Even fans of the series admitted that it had a weak plot. But didn't bother I loved watching it.
 - 4 In the series *Turn Up Charlie*, Idris Elba plays a DJ who becomes a nanny. character couldn't be more different than the detective played in *Luther*.

- 2 Complete the television review with the correct pronouns, possessive forms and demonstratives.



Mandy Moore and Milo Ventimiglia

THIS IS US

If you like family dramas, *This Is Us* is what you've been waiting for. It stars Mandy Moore and Milo Ventimiglia as Rebecca and Jack Pearson, and 1. traces their family's story by jumping backwards and forwards in time.

We first meet 2. in 1980, right before their triplets are born. Then, we see three siblings as adults. Kevin is starring in a TV series 3. dislikes. Kate, who is overweight, is 4. personal assistant. Randall, a successful businessman, is married, with two daughters.

The characters are complex people who have imperfect lives, make mistakes and sometimes fail.

5. is one reason I enjoy 6. so much. Furthermore, the acting is superb. On the downside, some problems get resolved a little too easily.

It's not surprising that *This Is Us* is a hit. I recommend 7. – but have tissues nearby, because you may cry!

TASK Write a Review

Write a review of a TV series that you enjoy watching. Write 100–120 words.

PREPARE FOR THE TASK

- 3 Answer the questions below.

- 1 What type of show is it: a detective series, a medical drama, a comedy, etc.?
- 2 Who is in the cast? What kind of characters do they play?
- 3 What are the strong and weak points of the show?
- 4 Who would you recommend this show to?

DO THE TASK

- 4 Organise your ideas into paragraphs and write your review. Use the model in Exercise and the Useful Expressions below to help you. Remember to use pronouns, possessive forms and demonstratives.

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

If you are a fan of / If you like ...

... (be) what you've been waiting for.

This show tells the story of ...

... (be) perfect in the role of ...

On the downside, ...

This is just one of (many) ...

... is problematic because ... will appeal to ...

All in all, ...

It's not surprising that ...

CHECK YOUR WORK

- 5 Use the checklist below to check your work.

- Organisation
- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Word order
- Grammar
- Use of connectors
- Use of referencing