

Chapter 1 : July by HispanicLife Media - Issuu

The uncomfortable and dangerous journey is filled with heat and humidity, mosquitoes and malaria, crocodiles and hippos, bullets and fighting. In short, there's something for everybody in the way of excitement.

In an interview with Rolling Stone, George R. R. Martin said, "I have more ideas now than I could ever write up." Short Story Ideas With that in mind, why not use these ten short story ideas to write your first ten stories, one per week, over the next ten weeks? Here are the short story ideas: Tell the story of a scar, whether a physical scar or emotional one. Think for a few moments about a moment in your life when you were wounded, whether physically or emotionally. Then, write a story, true or fictional, involving that wound. Half of them involved a character dying. Think about your favorite films or novels. Instead, they look it directly into its dark face and describe what they see on the page. Beside the fact that they are characters in some of the bestselling stories of all time? Orphans are uniquely vulnerable, and as such, they have the most potential for growth. Read more about why you should be writing stories about orphans here. One more pop quiz: Have your character find one. Check out our article, 3 reasons to write about ghosts. More Short Story Ideas Ready to get writing? A character living in poverty comes into an unexpected fortune. However, not all fortunes are good. In another story, they meet on a bus and her broach gets stuck on his coat. In another, they both reach for the last pair of gloves at the department store. What happens next is an awkward, endearing conversation between the future lovers. First, setup the collision. Then, let us see how they handle it. Your character is on a journey. However, they are interrupted by a natural disaster OR an accident. What happens next is one of the most famous encounters with a monstrous criminal in short fiction. Let your character fall into the path of a monster and see how they handle themselves. I recently combined idea 7, the unexpected fortune, along with idea 5, end of a relationship, to create this idea: I then posted the idea for feedback in Becoming Writer. Do you have any short story ideas? Share them with us in the comments section! He writes and edits books that change lives. Follow him on Facebook and Twitter. Subscribe the newsletter and get notified about free articles, story workshops, new resources, and other updates. I just sent you an email. Open it and confirm your email address by clicking the link in it. There was an error submitting your subscription.

Chapter 2 : Homecoming (Tillerman Family, #1) by Cynthia Voigt

The Meerkat Wars is close to pages and perfect for YA readers, or to be read to elementary-aged children. My eleven year old really enjoyed the different animal characters in the My eleven year old's new read is The Meerkat Wars by H. S. Toshack.

If you missed the previous look at books from January through March, go ahead and mosey over here. With her mother facing prison time for a violent political protest, seventeen-year-old Liberty Briscoe has no choice but to leave her Washington, DC, apartment and take a bus to Ebbottsville, Kentucky, to live with her granny. Half the county is out of work, an awful lot of people in town seem to be sick, and the tap water is bright orange—the same water that officials claim is safe to drink. When Max receives a mysterious invite from the untraceable, epic prank-pulling Chaos Club, he has to ask: And his favorite heist movies have taught him this situation calls for Rule 4: And this time, Max has had enough. Let the prank war begin. Elena Martinez has hidden her eidetic memory all her life—or so she thinks. Elena joins a team of four other teens with special skills, including Adam, a science prodigy with his own reason for being there. But when the time travelers arrive in the future, something goes wrong and they break the only rule they were given: Now they have twenty-four hours to get back to the present and find a way to stop a seemingly inevitable future from unfolding. With time running out and deadly secrets uncovered, Elena must use her eidetic memory, street smarts, and a growing trust in Adam to save her new friends and herself. In Sunshine, Tennessee, the main event in town is Friday night football, the biggest party of the year is held in a field filled with pickup trucks, and church attendance is mandatory. Girls like Bren Dawson. But as the cool, worldly new girl, nobody at school seems to give her any trouble. But the more serious things get with Bren, the harder it is to hide from everyone else. Finn is a year-old full of paradoxes. Finn is convinced that the drug is the way out of everything broken in his life. But is it really as magical as it seems? Riven has fought for a hard-won peace in her world, and has come to shaky terms with who and what she is—a human with cyborg DNA. Now that the rightful ruler of Neospes has been reinstated, Riven is on the hunt for her father in the Otherworld to bring him to justice for his crimes against her people. But when she receives an unwelcome visit from two former allies, she knows that trouble is brewing once again in Neospes. The army has been decimated and there are precious few left to fight this mysterious new threat. To muster a first line of defense, her people need help from the one person Riven loathes most—her father. But what he wants in return is her complete surrender. And now Riven must choose: Before Mike had to take on more responsibility in order to help provide for his family. What if the sleeping beauty never woke up? Once Upon a Dreammarks the second book in a new YA line that reimagines classic Disney stories in surprising new ways. It should be simple—a dragon defeated, a slumbering maiden, a prince poised to wake her. Soon she stumbles upon Phillip, a charming prince eager to join her quest. Time is running out. Will the sleeping beauty be able to wake herself up? Ten million followers and I still sit alone at lunch. Lele is a bulls-eye target at her new school in Miami until, overnight, her digital fame catapults the girl with cheerleader looks, a seriously silly personality, and a self-deprecating funny bone into the popular crowd. Leave it to Lele to reassure us that falling flat on your face is definitely not the end of the world. Fans of Mean Girls will love this fun and heartwarming fish-out-of-water story. As he attempts to unravel the mystery, Aaron is sidetracked again. For Wes and his best friend, Corey, jazz camp turns out to be lame. But then they jam with Ash, a charismatic girl with an unusual sound, and the three just click. They need to hit the road. Because the road, not summer camp, is where bands get good. All eyes are on Emma. The next morning, she wakes on the front porch of her house. But everyone else does. Photographs taken at the party show, in explicit detail, what happened to Emma that night. Rhea, Cadis, Suki, and Iren have lived together since they were children. They are called sisters. They are called equals. They are princesses—and they are enemies. As a gesture of peace, King Declan brought the daughters of his rivals to live under his protection—and his ever-watchful eye. For ten years the girls have trained together as diplomats and

warriors, raised to accept their thrones and unite their kingdoms in peace. But there is rarely peace among sisters. The charismatic Cadis is desperately trying to redeem her people from their actions during the war. All plans for peace are shattered when the palace is attacked. As their intended futures lie in ashes, Rhea, Cadis, Suki, and Iren must decide where their loyalties lie: When Madison makes a startling discovery, the body of a dead woman floating in the middle of a lake, the summer after her senior year becomes more complicated than she ever expected. Madison Mads to everyone who knows her is staying with her aunt and uncle in Seattle after graduating from high school. Now all Mads has to worry about is taking classes, swimming laps, and fighting off the sadness that threatens to overtake her. That is, until the traumatic moment Mads collides with a body in the middle of the lake. After swimming the body back to shore, Mads becomes obsessed with uncovering the identity of the woman and what drove her to leap off of the Aurora Bridge. Through a series of not-so-happenstance meetings, Mads and Billy realize that desperate mothers and rescue missions are not the only thing that bonds them. And though book-loving Mads is expected to return home to her already-decided future, her dream is to run away to a life of her choosing. As the unlikely pair fall hard for each other and as the summer draws to a close, Billy and Mads must decide whose story to follow: In a city divided between opulent luxury in the Light and fierce privations in the Dark, a determined young woman survives by guarding her secrets. Lucie Manette was born in the Dark half of the city, but careful manipulations won her a home in the Light, celebrity status, and a rich, loving boyfriend. Now she just wants to keep her head down, but her boyfriend has a dark secret of his own—one involving an apparent stranger who is destitute and despised. Blood and secrets alike spill out when revolution erupts. With both halves of the city burning, and mercy nowhere to be found, can Lucie save either boy—or herself? A ridiculously cute, formerly-famous new guy dropping into your life? I realize that on paper I look like your standard type-A, neurotic, overachiever. And maybe I am. This is my life. Two years ago, Alex Powell was famous. Hanneke spends her days procuring and delivering sought-after black market goods to paying customers, her nights hiding the true nature of her work from her concerned parents, and every waking moment mourning her boyfriend, who was killed on the Dutch front lines when the Germans invaded. She likes to think of her illegal work as a small act of rebellion. On a routine delivery, a client asks Hanneke for help. Expecting to hear that Mrs. Janssen had been hiding, who has vanished without a trace from a secret room. Hanneke initially wants nothing to do with such dangerous work, but is ultimately drawn into a web of mysteries and stunning revelations that lead her into the heart of the resistance, open her eyes to the horrors of the Nazi war machine, and compel her to take desperate action. Only ten years old and under the highest security possible, this girl has to be dangerous, even if no one knows what she did to land in juvie. They must find a way to get out, but how can they save themselves when the world has forgotten them? Celestine North lives a perfect life. But then Celestine encounters a situation where she makes an instinctive decision. She breaks a rule. And now faces life-changing repercussions. She could be imprisoned. She could be branded. In her breathtaking young adult debut, bestselling author Cecelia Ahern depicts a society where obedience is paramount and rebellion is punished. And where one young woman decides to take a stand that could cost her-everything. Until Isis punches him in the face. Suddenly everything is a game. Make the other beg for mercy. Something neither of them expected. The night is the enemy, and the city of Philadelphia is its deadliest weapon. That all changes the night she tries to save an innocent life and everything goes horribly wrong. Becket has been tricked into opening a door between worlds. As dark magic trickles into Philadelphia, strange creatures roam the streets and inanimate objects come to life, all of them bloodthirsty and terrifying. The city returns to normal when the sun rises each morning.

Safari YA Hatari/Dangerous Journey, Zachariah M. Zani Heroes and Heroines, Issue 3 - Heroes and Heroines, Stuart Hall, Doreen Massey, Michael Rustin.

Bad beginning of the new year. The Doctor is conveyed in canoes. Refusal of Arabs to take letters. A den of slavers. Puzzling current in Lake Tanganyika. Letters sent off at last. Contemplates visiting the Manyuema. Starts for new explorations in Manyuema, 12th July, Voyage on the Lake. Evil effects of last illness. The Lualaba reaches the Manyuema. Sokos first heard of. The following entries were made after he regained sufficient strength, but we see how short they necessarily were, and what labour it was to make the jottings which relate to his progress towards the western shore of Lake Tanganyika. He was not able at any time during this seizure to continue the minute maps of the country in his pocket-books, which for the first time fail here. I felt very ill, but fearing that the Lofuko might flood, I resolved to cross it. Moving is always good in fever; now I had a pain in the chest, and rust of iron sputa: We crossed a rill and built sheds, but I lost count of the days of the week and month after this. Very ill all over. About 7th January, Pneumonia of right lung, and I cough all day and all night: Ideas flow through the mind with great rapidity and vividness, in groups of twos and threes: I saw myself lying dead in the way to Ujiji, and all the letters I expected there useless. When I think of my children and friends, the lines ring through my head perpetually: Page 2 8th and 9th January, I am so weak I can scarcely speak. This is the first time in my life I have been carried in illness, but I cannot raise myself to the sitting posture. No food except a little gruel. Great distress in coughing all night long; feet swelled and sore. I am carried four hours each day on a kitanda or frame, like a cot; carried eight hours one day. Then sleep in a deep ravine. Next day six hours, over volcanic tufa; very rough. We seem near the brim of Tanganyika. Sixteen days of illness. May be 23rd of January; it is 5th of lunar month. Country very undulating; it is perpetually up and down. Soil red, and rich knolls of every size and form. Erythras abound; so do elephants. Though there is so much slope, water does not run quickly off Marungu. A compact mountain-range flanks the undulating country through which we passed, and may stop the water flowing. The sun is vertical, blistering any part of the skin exposed, and I try to shelter my face and head as well as I can with a bunch of leaves, but it is dreadfully fatiguing in my weakness. I had a severe relapse after a very hot day. Mohamad gave me medicines; one was a sharp purgative, the others intended for the cure of the cough. Parra is the name of the land at the confluence of the River Lofuko: Syde bin Habib had two or three large canoes at this place, our beads were nearly done, so I sent to Syde to say that all the Arabs had served me except himself. Thani bin Suellim by his letter was anxious to send a canoe as soon as I reached the Lake, and the only service I wanted of Syde was to inform Thani, by one of his canoes, that I was here very ill, and if I did not get to Ujiji to get proper food and medicine I should die. Thani would send a canoe as soon as he knew of my arrival I was sure: Syde came to-day, and is favourable to sending me up to Ujiji. Thanks to the Great Father in Heaven. When a poultice is put on they seem obliged to come out possibly from want of air: Page 3 26th February, Shore very rough, like shores near Caprera, but here all is covered with vegetation. We were to cross to Kabogo, a large mass of mountains on the eastern side, but the wind was too high. Bogharib, who cooked bountifully. Rounded a point of land, and made for Kasanga with a storm in our teeth; fourteen hours in all. We were received by a young Arab Muscat, who dined us sumptuously at noon: Cochin-China fowls[1] and Muscovy ducks appear, and plenty of a small milkless breed of goats. Tanganyika has many deep bays running in four or five miles; they are choked up with aquatic vegetation, through which canoes can scarcely be propelled. Patience was never more needed than now: I am near Ujiji, but the slaves who paddle are tired, and no wonder; they keep up a roaring song all through their work, night and day. I expect to get medicine, food, and milk at Ujiji, but dawdle and do nothing. I have a good appetite, and sleep well; these are the favourable symptoms; but am dreadfully thin, bowels irregular, and I have no medicine. Sputa increases; hope to hold out to Ujiji. Hope to go to-morrow. Zahor is the name of our young Arab host. Great care is taken not

to encounter foul weather; we go a little way, then wait for fair wind in crossing to east side of Lake. From Kibize islet to Kabogo River on east side of Lake ten hours; sleep there. Syde slipped past us at night, but we made up to him in four hours next morning. Page 4 13th March, It was his first visit, but he had arranged that supplies should be forwarded thither by caravans bound inland from Zanzibar. The disappointment to a man shattered in health, and craving for letters and stores, must have been severe indeed. Medicines, wine, and cheese had been left at Unyanyembe, thirteen days east of this. Milk not to be had, as the cows had not calved, but a present of Assam tea from Mr. I bought butter; two large pots are sold for two fathoms of blue calico, and four-year-old flour, with which we made bread. I found great benefit from the tea and coffee, and still more from flannel to the skin. The road to Unyembe[3] is blocked up by a Mazitu or Watuta war, so I must wait till the Governor there gets an opportunity to send them. The Musa sent with the buffaloes is a genuine specimen of the ill-conditioned, English-hating Arab. I tried to make use of him to go a mile every second day for milk, but he shammed sickness so often on that day I had to get another to go; then he made a regular practice of coming into my house, watching what my two attendants were doing, and going about the village with distorted statements against them. I clothed him, but he tried to make bad blood between the respectable Arab who supplied me with milk and myself, telling him that I abused him, and then he would come back, saying that he abused me! I can account for his conduct only by attributing it to that which we call ill-conditioned: I had to expel him from the house. I repaired a house to keep out the rain, and on the 23rd moved into it. I gave our Kasanga host a cloth and blanket; he is ill of pneumonia of both lungs. I am writing letters for home. He added a sheep. Page 5 Wrote also to Thani for boat and crew to go down Tanganyika. Syde bin Habib refused to allow his men to carry my letters to the coast; as he suspected that I would write about his doings in Rua. The season called Masika commenced this month with the usual rolling thunder, and more rain than in the month preceding. I have been busy writing letters home, and finished forty-two, which in some measure will make up for my long silence. The Ujjians are unwilling to carry my letters, because, they say, Seyed Majid will order the bearer to return with others: The malachite at Katanga is loosened by fire, then dug out of four hills: Here and there, as in the words written on the next day, we find Livingstone again with his back turned to the coast and gazing towards the land of the Manyema and the great rivers reported there. I have to change house again, and wish I were away, now that I am getting stronger. Attendants arrive from Parra or Mparra. He left this when comparatively young, and is now well advanced in years. Makwamba is one of the chiefs of the rock-dwellers, Ngulu is another, and Masika-Kitobwe on to Baluba. Numerically they were a very small minority of the population, and powerful only from the superior abilities of the leading men, and from having the right, the true, and just on their side. Of the rest of the Page 6 population an immense number were the indifferent, who had no sympathies to spare for any beyond their own fireside circles. In the course of time sensation writers came up on the surface of society, and by way of originality they condemned almost every measure and person of the past. We must never lose sight of the fact that though the majority perhaps are on the side of freedom, large numbers of Englishmen are not slaveholders only because the law forbids the practice.

Chapter 4 : GIRLS SERIES BOOKS: A CHECKLIST OF TITLES PUBLISHED Â· University of Minnesota L

A young woman with the magical ability to sense the presence of gold must flee her home, taking her on a sweeping and dangerous journey across Gold Rush-era America. Walk on Earth a Stranger begins an epic saga from one of the finest writers of young adult calendrierdelascience.com Westfall has a secret.

Brush Your Hair, Medusa! Harazin, about a teen with a rare condition that makes him unable to feel pain; and Down from the Mountain by Elizabeth Fixmer, in which Eva sees her religious compound in a different light after getting a glimpse of life on the outside. Pop Goes the Circus by Kate Klise, illus. Sarah Klise, featuring two characters attempting to run from their troubles; Catch You Later, Traitor by Avi, about a seventh grader in s New York who is labeled a communist by his teacher; Hit Count by Chris Lynch, starring a teen who loves to be at the heart of the action on the football field; The Walls Around Us by Nova Ren Suma a ghostly story of suspense intertwining the lives of three teen girls; and The Jumbies by Tracey Baptiste, a spooky tale inspired by Caribbean folklore. Comics for Kids flits into spring with Woodstock: A Peanuts Collection by Charles M. Schulz, the fourth collection of Peanuts strips aimed at middle graders; Stinky Cecil in Operation Pond Rescue by Page Braddock, in which Cecil the toad rallies his pals to save their pond from a freeway construction project; The Alien Invasion in My Backyard: An EMU Club Adventure by Ruben Bolling, featuring two friends and one pesky little sister whose mystery-solving club investigates strange goings-on with the family dog; Big Nate: Awesome Origins by Chris Giarrusso, set in a world where superpowers are real and former regular-kid Michael G wrestles with how to use his new abilities. The Forgotten Sisters by Shannon Hale, in which now-proper princess Miri is ordered to a distant swamp to start an academy for three sisters; and The Imaginary by A. Tracking Down Typhoid Mary by Gail Jarrow, the true story of the woman who unwittingly carried the deadly bacteria that caused an outbreak in the early s; and Like a River by Kathy Cannon Wiechman, about a girl who poses as a boy to become a Union soldier. Space by Simon Rogers, illus. Tales from Mossy Bottom Farm: COTEAU Coteau punches the clock for Hours by Colleen Nelson, in which Sara meets Jess when he is sent to do community service helping her grandmother; Between Shadows by Kathleen Cook Waldron, featuring a boy who inherits a family lakeside cabin that his aunt insists on selling; Ghost Most Foul by Patti Grayson, about a girl who receives messages from the ghost of her high school basketball coach; and The Lake in the Clouds and The Reunited Blade by Edward Willett, the third and fourth volumes in the Shards of Excalibur series, offering a modern spin on Arthurian legend. Beginnings, an introduction to the size-shifting superhero. Figaro Saves Halloween, starring the black cat from Pinocchio. Cummings, A Life by Matthew Burgess, illus. Adventures in the Grand Canyon by Carolyn Ahern, illus. HARPERTEEN HarperTeen holds court with Red Queen by Victoria Aveyard, a fantasy debut featuring a common girl whose hidden magical power draws her into the royal elite; Challenger Deep by Neal Shusterman, a novel of mental illness; Vanishing Girls by Lauren Oliver, following two sisters in the aftermath of a horrific car accident; Proof of Forever by Lexa Hillyer, in which four friends at a camp reunion are transported to a pivotal summer in their past; and Magonia by Maria Headley, a romantic fantasy spotlighting a girl caught between two worlds. Last Panda Standing by Jarret J. Krosoczka, third in this illustrated series for middle-graders. Gallardo, new to the teens-vs. Johnston, sequel to The Story of Owen. Limericks by Brian P. The Castles of Equestria: New Friend by Billy Steers, first in a six-book launch of a previously self-published series about a tractor and his friends on the farm; and The Churchill Club: Poems About Just About Everything by Calef Brown, an illustrated collection of nonsense poetry; Dear Hank Williams by Kimberly Willis Holt, about a boy in who uses letter-writing as an escape from a difficult time at home; Book Scavenger by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman, a middle-grade debut featuring a girl whose love of reading and puzzle-solving turns into a real-life mystery; Witherwood by Obert Skye, first in a series that follows two siblings trapped in a creepy reform school and entangled in its dark secrets; and My Life as a Gamer by Janet Tashjian, illus. Airport, Sneak a Peek: Colors, and Little Friends: Happy Birthday by Ellen

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Crimi Trent, illus. Covert, in which Katie from the Charlie Joe Jackson series swears off texting and tries to get her classmates to do the same; and Tommy by Karen Blumenthal, a history of the Thompson Machine Gun, the first commercially available automatic weapon. Animal Riddles by J. Squirrel and the Moon by Sebastian Meschenmoser, about Mr. Book 3 by Lauren Myracle, illus. Love on the Lifts by Jill Santopolo, a romance that allows readers to make choices that can result in 14 possible endings. Burning Nation by Trent Reedy, in which Danny and his friends fight to defend Idaho against a federal takeover. Escape from the Lizzarks by Doug TenNapel, starring a Nnewt named Herk who flees his village when it is destroyed and now must navigate a new mysterious, dangerous world. Dinosaurs by Joanna Cole, illus. Dog Days by Cynthia Rylant, illus. A New Friend by Poppy Green, illus. Bell, first in a series starring a mouse and her forest friends; and Tales from Maple Ridge: McElderry Books rises up for spring with Mouseheart: A Dunes Alphabet by Kathy-jo Wargin, illus. Traver about a computer hacker whose past crimes catch up with him; The Tragic Age by Stephen Metcalfe, the story of the young heir to a lottery fortune who is an insomniac and a closeted rock drummer; and Hello, I Love You by Katie-Marie Stout, which follows a teenage girl descended from country music royalty, who falls for a K-pop star when she attends boarding school abroad.

Chapter 5 : 10 Short Story Ideas

The Tillerman kids' mother just left them one day in a car in a mall parking lot. Their father, too, had left them a long time ago. So, as usual, it was up to thirteen-year-old Dicey, the eldest of four, to take care of everything, make all the decisions, feed them, find places to sleep.

Sharing Books and Authors, with an emphasis on Mysteries. They both deal with Jack the Ripper. In , in London, Jack the Ripper was terrorizing everyone. Evelyn is a young woman disfigured from working with dangerous chemicals at a matchstick factory, with nowhere to go and living each day in fear. She looks for work at the hospital where her life and most of her jaw was saved. She ends up as a maid for Joseph Merrick, the famous Elephant Man. Evelyn finds a deep kindness in Merrick, who many see as a monster. Evelyn faces her own fears in order to uncover the truth. Release date is Sept. The other reason was the subject matter, Jack the Ripper. Audrey Rose Wadsworth was groomed to be the perfect Victorian young lady. But, after the loss of her mother, she is determined to understand the nature of death. She secretly apprentices in forensics, which draws her into the investigation of serial killer Jack the Ripper. To her horror, her search for clues takes her far closer to her sheltered world than she could have imagined. Ross King examines a legendary artist in *Mad Enchantment: Claude Monet and the Painting of the Water Lilies*. At seventy-three, Monet had retired. Then, he began painting again. A skeleton is found encased in concrete at the site of a newly decommissioned nuclear power plant. It solves a forty-year-old missing persons case and opens a murder investigation. But, the new case leads to murder and kidnapping. I also highlighted Tilar J. Mattie and Robo are called in to look for a woman who went missing in the mountains outside Timber Creek. By the time they find her body, the snow is coming down hard. This city embodies the tale of Everything, as told from the gutter, a slum. Then, when a black woman last seen in a car driven by a white man turns up dead, Boggs and Smith suspect white cops are behind it. The two men will risk their new jobs and their lives in investigating while navigating a dangerous path. And, investigating that link could be disastrous to his career, and possibly his life. Genevieve Summerford, a psychiatrist who prides herself on her ability to understand the human mind. But when one of her patients is arrested for murder, Genevieve fears she may have provoked the murder, and she begins to doubt her training and herself. Should she reveal it, and bring catastrophe to others, or let it alone. If she ignores the truth, her patient will go to the electric chair. Her roving husband, Mark, also returns. Together, they look for the killer, while Mark connives to drive Inez and Sands apart. Phillips examines the history of his home county, Forsyth County, Georgia. Bands of night riders declared Forsyth "whites only", and 1, black citizens fled. The story that begins in the s continues into our own era. In , residents attacked civil rights activists, fighting to "Keep Forsyth White. *The Velvet Hours* by Alyson Richman is inspired by the true account of an abandoned Parisian apartment. In the novel, Paris is about to be occupied by the Germans. Her grandmother, had been a courtesan who cultivated a life of art and beauty to escape her impoverished childhood. That story helps Solange make her own decisions when necessary. Laetitia Rodd is the widow of an archdeacon. She lives in Hampstead with her confidante and landlady, Mrs. Laetitia makes her living as a highly discreet private investigator, taking on cases found by her brother Frederick. Frederick Tyson is a criminal barrister who has ten children. Laetitia uses her intelligence, discretion, and cover as an unsuspecting widow in her investigations. When a young demonstrator is singled out and assassinated by highly trained killers in the heart of Athens, Kaldis is convinced the killing was meant as a message. In the story, a father and son have struggled to connect. Maggie Summer is making big changes in her life. The antique print dealer has taken a sabbatical and moved to Maine to run an antiques mall with Will Brewer, her significant other. But, the troubled girl is only interested in the harbor seals, not adoption. Then someone starts shooting the seals, a fisherman is murdered, and Will confesses a secret from his past. The Underground Railroad is not a metaphor in this story. Is there something in the list of books from the last couple days that caught your attention? What are you going to order from your local library or bookstore?

Chapter 6 : This Weekend's Kids & Family Activities in Bronx - NYMetroParents

Mount Prospect Public Library Web Page. Menu. Books, Movies, & Music. Books Movies & Music Page; Ask a Readers' Advisor.

Forced into the clutches of a bloodthirsty dragon, Sigurdâ€™the new hope of the Volson clanâ€™fights not only for his life, but for the survival of an apocalyptic Britain. Young pioneer, Micah, enters Wrymeweald full of hope to return home having made his fortune. But this is a land where wyrmes, fabulous dragon-like beasts, roam wild and reign supreme. After a near-brush with death on the edge of a canyon, Micah soon finds a chance to prove his worth when he meets with Eli, a veteran tracker of Wrymeweald. Long ago, dragons were hunted to near extinction by the Order of St. George, a legendary society of dragon slayers. Ember and Dante Hill are the only sister and brother known to dragonkind. Trained to infiltrate society, Ember wants to live the teen experience and enjoy a summer of freedom before taking her destined place in Talon. But destiny is a matter of perspective, and a rogue dragon will soon challenge everything Ember has been taught. The fifteen-year-long war between man and dragons seems nearly over until Melissa becomes an unwilling pawn of the government after sheâ€™and those driving the beasts to extinctionâ€™discovers that she can communicate with dragons. In an alternate world where industrialization has caused many species of carbon-eating dragons to thrive, Owen, a slayer being trained by his famous father and aunt, and Siobahn, his bard, face a dragon infestation near their small town in Canada. In a world where dragons and humans coexist in an uneasy truce and dragons can assume human form, Seraphina, whose mother died giving birth to her, grapples with her own identity amid magical secrets and royal scandals, while she struggles to accept and develop her extraordinary musical talents. When sixteen-year-old Jacinda, who can change into a dragon, is forced to move away from her community of shapeshifters and start a more normal life, she falls in love with a boy who proves to be her most dangerous enemy. Eon has disguised herself as a boy in order to study Dragon Magic and become a Dragoneye, one of a select group that forms a conduit to the power of energy dragons, but if the secret of her sex comes out, she will be killed. Three young men are entrusted with the Imaginarium Geographica, an atlas of fantastical places to which they travel in hopes of defeating the Winter King whose bid for power is related to the First World War raging in the Real World. When Jake Mendoza, who lives in the Smokehill National Park where his father runs the Makepeace Institute of Integrated Dragon Studies, goes on his first solo overnight in the park, he finds an infant dragon whose mother has been killed by a poacher. Two boys from very different backgrounds are thrown together by magic, mayhem, and a common foe as they battle deadly dragons in the wilderness of Nepal. In Alagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters. In a parallel world where humans and dragons live in a state of cold war, seventeen-year-old Kay and her dragon friend, Artegal, struggle to find a way to show that dragons and humans can co-exist. Forged in Flames Vol.

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Chapter 7 : Lesa's Book Critiques: September Treasures in My Closet - Part 2

Here's my advice: If you're in the mood to begin a new short story, stop trying to find the best short story idea. In an interview with Rolling Stone, George R.R. Martin said, "Ideas are cheap."

Of course he swears. Watch on Sunday, Aug. The story was originally told in comic book format by writer Garth Ennis and artist Steve Dillon. Their issue run spanned from to and was part of an era of explicit comics targeted at mature readers. Obstacles abounded, and the screen adaptation passed through multiple hands until it finally made it into the clutches of an unlikely pair, who just happened to have obsessively coveted it for years. Seth Christmas In Colorado Dec. Casting announcements followed, with hawk-eyed fans of the source material scrutinizing every decision. Season 1 began with Jesse dragging his heels as the uninspired and uninspiring preacher of his tiny Texas hometown of Anneville. The first season ended with Jesse calling up heaven via angel-phone and demanding to speak to God, then discovering that God had abandoned heaven for reasons unknown and was currently hanging out somewhere on Earth. As it turns out, voodoo is a very useful skill for bringing back the dead. Oh, and Jesse has also given up a small slice of his own soul, and the Word of God no longer reliably works for him. Catch the culmination of season 3 when it airs Sunday, Aug. Championship Live CC 2: Thomas Aquinas Live 6: Pickering Central Live 2: Denver Live CC Friday Unfortunately, more often than not this end comes by way of cancellation. Clean Leach fiand well maintained, this home is move-in ready! This home is of exceptional quality. Ample Beth room for those family Bueide-gatherings. Boasting 6 Sunblade beds and 4 baths and an oversized 4 car garage, this home is ready for that special family! Come see, you will not be disappointed! Conveniently located right off a paved road, very close to Morrill. This 3 BR, 2 bath farmhouse has lots of charm to offer as well as space for your animals, and your business if desired. So much to offer, make Jo your appointment Hurst today! Main floor den with fireplace, hard surface countertops and Darlene stainless steel apKovarik pliances, PLUS a great deck and vinyl privacy fenced yard. The two-part series send-off will air this holiday season on NBC. HBO has movie adaptation starring Eric Bana caught the time-traveling bug. Attached garage, covered patio, a well for the privacy fenced yard. Check it out today! Then here is the house for you!!! Come check out this adorable home with tons of upgrades throughout plus beautiful views all around! Throw in an offer today! All brick triDarlene plex near the medical Kovarik complex. Live in one, rent the others. Stainless utility area and large Steel kitchen apfamily-room down. Main floor story dream home. Call for a showing. Choose Double gate off alley for your number of acres! All the extras everywhere.

Chapter 8 : Spring Children's Sneak Previews

An orphan leaves Dark Ages London, taking a dangerous journey and posing as a Jew to study medicine in Persia, in "an adventurous and inspiring tale" (Library Journal). A child holds the hand of his dying mother and is terrified, aware something is taking her.

Buckminster Fuller A book goes out like a wave rolling over the surface of the sea. These generate further thoughts and emanations, and so it goes. This is my report on the waves that have washed back over me from publication of the book, and on the new waves I send back in response. Jung and the mythic studies of Joseph Campbell. I came looking for the design principles of storytelling, but on the road I found something more; a set of principles for living. It is a recognition of a beautiful design, a set of principles that govern the conduct of life and the world of storytelling the way physics and chemistry govern the physical world. From this model, infinite and highly varied copies can be produced, each resonating with the essential spirit of the form. It accurately describes, among other things, the process of making a journey, the necessary working parts of a story, the joys and despairs of being a writer, and the passage of a soul through life. A book that explores such a pattern naturally partakes of this multi-dimensional quality. Some people have even used it as a kind of travel guide, predicting the inevitable ups and downs of making a physical journey. A certain number of people say the book has affected them on a level that may have nothing to do with the business of telling a story or writing a script. They recognize their own problems in the ordeals of the mythic and literary heroes, and are reassured by the stories that give them abundant, time-tested strategies for survival, success, and happiness. Other people find validation of their own observations in the book. Campbell himself felt it when he first heard his mentor, Heinrich Zimmer, speak about mythology. In Zimmer he recognized a shared attitude about mythsâ€”that they are not abstract theories or the quaint beliefs of ancient peoples, but practical models for understanding how to live. In that practical spirit, I am gratified to hear from so many readers that the book can be a useful writing guide. Professional writers as well as novices and students report that it has been an effective design tool, validating their instincts and providing new concepts and principles to apply to their stories. Movie and television executives, producers, and directors have told me the book influenced their projects and helped them solve story problems. Novelists, playwrights, actors, and writing teachers have put the ideas to use in their work. Happily, the book has won acceptance as one of the standard Hollywood guidebooks for the screenwriting craft. The self-conscious, heavyhanded use of this model can be boring and predictable. But if writers absorb its ideas and re-create them with fresh insights and surprising combinations, they can make amazing new forms and original designs from the ancient, immutable parts. I welcome this as a sign the ideas are worthy of argument. Since the book came out in have continued to work in the story end of the movie business, at Disney and now at Fox. I saw where it works but also where my understanding of it fell short and needed to be adjusted. My beliefs about what makes a good story were tested in the toughest arenas on earthâ€”Hollywood story conferences and the world marketplaceâ€”and I hope my understanding has grown from the objections, doubts, and questions of my esteemed colleagues, and from the reaction of the audience. My theoretical framework has been shaken from every angle, and I think is the richer for it. We come to a great divide in theory and practice about these principles. For them, art is an entirely intuitive process that can never be mastered by rules of thumb and should not be reduced to formula. At the core of every artist is a sacred place where all the rules are set aside or deliberately forgotten, and nothing matters but the instinctive choices of the heart and soul of the artist. Avoid formula, distrust order and pattern, resist logic and tradition. Artists who operate on the principle of rejecting all form are themselves dependent on form. The freshness and excitement of their work comes from its contrast to the pervasiveness of formulas and patterns in the culture. A certain amount of form is necessary to reach a wide audience. At the other extreme are the big Hollywood studios who use conventional patterns to appeal to the broadest cross-section of the public. The minds guiding Disney at that time believed that there were proper questions to ask of a story and its

characters: Does it have conflict? Does it have a theme? Does it present the story as a series of broad movements or acts, allowing audiences to orient and pace themselves in the narrative? Do the characters have relevant backstories and plausible motivations to make them relatable to the audience? Do they pass through realistic stages of emotional reaction and growth character arcs? Studios have to use design principles and apply some kind of standards to evaluating and developing stories, if only because they produce so many of them. The average studio or division in Hollywood has bought and is developing one hundred fifty to two hundred stories at a time. They must spend more resources evaluating thousands of potential projects submitted by agents each year. To handle the large number of stories, some of the techniques of mass production, such as standardization, have to be employed. But they should be employed sparingly and with great sensitivity for the needs of the particular story. This provides everyone with a shorthand for the rapid communication of story ideas. Meanwhile new terms and concepts are always being created to reflect changing conditions. Junior studio executives listen carefully for signs of insight, philosophy, or ordering principle from their bosses. People take their lead from the leader. Any terms of art, any aphorisms or rules of thumb are seized upon and passed down, becoming part of the corporate culture of that studio and the general knowledge of the industry. But there is danger in this self-awareness. Overreliance on traditional language or the latest buzzwords can lead to thoughtless, cookie-cutter products. It should be used as a form, not a formula, a reference point and a source of inspiration, not a dictatorial mandate. American values and the cultural assumptions of Western society threaten to smother the unique flavors of other cultures. This problem is much on the minds of European storytellers as many countries with distinct cultures are drawn into a union. They are striving to create stories that are somewhat universal, that can travel beyond their national borders, for local audiences may not be numerous enough to support the always-growing cost of production. They are competing with intensely competitive American product that aggressively courts the world market. Many are studying and applying American techniques, but they also worry that their unique regional traditions will be lost. It could be, if naively interpreted, blindly copied, or unquestioningly adopted. But it can also be a useful tool for the storyteller in any culture, if adapted thoughtfully to reflect the unique, inimitable qualities of the local geography, climate, and people. They have forged something distinct from England, independent of America and Asia, influenced by all of them but uniquely Australian, and humming with the mysterious energy of the land and the Aboriginal people. While it is universal and timeless, and its workings can be found in every culture on earth, a Western or American reading of it may carry subtle biases. One instance is the Hollywood preference for happy endings and tidy resolutions, the tendency to show admirable, virtuous heroes overcoming evil by individual effort. My Australian teachers helped me see that such elements might make good stories for the world market but may not reflect the views of all cultures. They made me aware of what assumptions were being carried by Hollywood-style films, and of what was not being expressed. Each region, department, or state operates as a small-scale movie studio, developing scripts, putting artists to work, and producing feature films and television shows. For America, I like to imagine a version of a decentralized Hollywood in which every state in the Union functions like a movie studio, evaluating the stories of its citizens and advancing money to produce regional films that represent and enhance the culture of the locality while supporting the local artists. Australians have their heroes, of course, but they tend to be unassuming and self-effacing, and will remain reluctant for much longer than heroes in other cultures. Like most heroes, they resist calls to adventure but continue demurring and may never be comfortable with the hero mantle. The most admirable hero is one who denies his heroic role as long as possible and who, like Mad Max, avoids accepting responsibility for anyone but himself. Nazism and German militarism manipulated and distorted the powerful symbols of the hero myth, invoking its passions to enslave, dehumanize, and destroy. Like any archetypal system, like any philosophy or creed, the heroic form can be warped and used with great effect for ill intention. Dispassionate, cold-blooded anti-heroes are more in keeping with the current German spirit. A tone of unsentimental realism is more popular at present, although there will always be a strain of romanticism and love of fantasy. Critics say it is a propaganda device invented to encourage young males to enlist in armies, a

myth that glorifies death and foolish self-sacrifice. However, to condemn and dismiss these patterns because they can be put to military use is shortsighted and narrow-minded. The warrior is only one of the faces of the hero, who can also be pacifist, mother, pilgrim, fool, wanderer, hermit, inventor, nurse, savior, artist, lunatic, lover, clown, king, victim, slave, worker, rebel, adventurer, tragic failure, coward, saint, monster, etc. The many creative possibilities of the form far outweigh its potential for abuse. There may be some masculine bias built into the description of the hero cycle since many of its theoreticians have been male, and I freely admit it: XVIII PREFACE I believe that much of the journey is the same for all humans, since we share many realities of birth, growth, and decay, but clearly being a woman imposes distinct cycles, rhythms, pressures, and needs. Another possible model might be a series of concentric rings, with the woman making a journey inward towards the center and then expanding out again. If in doubt on this point, consult the nearest woman. According to this batch of critics, the ancient ideas of the Journey are hopelessly mired in the conventions of beginning, middle, and end, of cause and effect, of one event after another. The new wave, they said, would dethrone the old linear storyteller, empowering people to tell their own stories in any sequence they chose, leaping from point to point, weaving stories more like spider webs than linear strings of events. Interactivity has always been with us—we all make many nonlinear hypertext links in our own minds even as we listen to a linear story. The thousands of variations on the paradigm, worked out over the centuries, offer endless branches from which infinite webs of story can be built. I encountered artists from Eastern Europe who pointed out that in their cultures, there is deep cynicism about heroic efforts to change the world. The world is as it is, any efforts to change it are a foolish waste of time, and any so-called heroes who try to change it are doomed to fail. However, I must acknowledge that not every person or culture sees the model as optimistically as I do, and they might be right. I find surprising and delightful turns of the path every time I pick up a new story, and life itself keeps teaching new angles. I have been impressed all over again by the power of this pattern, especially as it operates within the individual as a repository for unexpressed feelings and desires. It is a force that accumulates when you fail to honor your gifts, follow the call of your muses, or live up to your principles and ideals. It has great but subtle power, operating on deep levels to communicate with you, perhaps sabotaging your efforts, upsetting your balance until you realize the message these events bring—that you must express your creativity, your true nature, or die. Some people were confused by the various turning points and ordeals of the model, particularly by the distinction between the midpoint, which I call the Ordeal, and the climax of the second act, which I call The Road Back. Trying to explain this led me to a new realization. Each act is like a movement of a symphony, with its own beginning, middle, and end, and with its own climax the highest point of tension coming just before the ending of the act. These act climaxes are the major turning points on the circular diagram: If the ordeal at the midpoint has the villain capturing the hero and lover, the goal in the next movement could become trying to escape.

Chapter 9 : + YA Books For Your April - June Radar

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Jackson, John Goodman, Brie Larson, Corey Hawkins, et al explore an uncharted island in the Pacific, venturing into the domain of the mighty Kong, and must fight to escape a primal Eden. Skull Island takes the most fascinating segment of King Kong and fleshes it out as an amusement park ride not in the tired Jurassic World manner either. Indeed, this flick is pure wish fulfillment for classic film buffs. Moviegoers familiar with Merian C. Cooper and Ernest B. Okay, that sounds dirty but take heed: Early on in that gem, searchers embark on an expedition to Skull Island, a place of pre-historic monster mash-ups previously unknown to modern man. As that film has loftier goals year-old spoiler alert: The great ape gets captured, falls in love with Fay Wray, and makes an ill-advised climb up the side of the Empire State Building , the brief taste of the H. Wellsian Skull Island leaves audiences wanting more. Putting together a hodgepodge of explorers played by A-list stars and having them ripped apart one-by-one in a Land of the Lost during the s might seem like a bad cinematic idea but the execution ends up to be as good as one would hope from a big budget B-Movie. Armed with a winning screenplay by Dan Gilroy, Max Borenstein, and Derek Connolly based on a story by original Kong fan John Gatins , he sets the funtastic tone within the first 20 minutes by having Kong knock an Army attack copter right out of the air and eat one of the plastic soldiers inside. Reilly embrace the spirit of the B-Move and gleefully run with it. Bloody and gutsy aplenty, the movie uses the R-rating as if it were more butter to pile upon this bucket of popcorn. The running time is just that: Though talk of a further monster mash-up between the King and Godzilla looms, Skull Island stands testament that all hope should not be abandoned for a thrillride that winks and nods while cities get leveled. To Sum It All Up: In this PGrated actioner, a mysterious woman Charlize Theron seduces Dom Vin Diesel into the world of terrorism and a betrayal of those closest to him, causing his crew Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese Gibson, Ludicris, et al to face trials that will test them as never before. Thankfully, this gleefully overblown sequel begins with a street race to keep a few tires grounded in the genre from which it came--crime-thriller. Originally played out as Point Break with cars, the series has slowly elevated itself to ridiculous heights of blockbusting, trading in hot-rods for tanks and handguns for WMDs Oh, there are plenty of eye-rolls to be had at the expense of the Pierce Brosnan-era Bond-worthy plot and the arch heaviness with which the characters deliver their lines Hobbs: Besides, being too observant of this script might cause nausea. The fact that the producers are spawning Hobbs Dwayne Johnson and Shaw Jason Statham off into their own series, however, hints that there might be oversized vacancies left soon to fill. He keeps the action moving at a steady clip. The only major slip-up comes courtesy of the length. Hey, audiences can only take so much mind-numbing extravagance! Grand Toretto Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Ta Save for the first chapter, The Curse of the Black Pearl, this franchise never sailed smoothly. In Dead Men Tell No Tales, said tale lacks originality, the comedy falls flat and the action fails to throw off any sparks. With his latest take on the pirate, it seems like he is imitating his past performances--not channeling the character. The Pirates of the Caribbean series may have already had a sinking feeling but their miscalculated take on the humor and explosive set pieces in the movie just dashes whatever remained of the series against the rocks. In this R-rated crime thriller, a group of Boston-bred gangsters Affleck, Chris Messina, et al set up shop in balmy Florida during the Prohibition era, facing off against the competition and the Ku Klux Klan. Teaming up again with South Boston-born novelist Dennis Lehane their first collaboration, the excellent kidnapping puzzler Gone Baby Gone, marked the auspicious start of a truly gifted filmmaker , Boston-bred Affleck sees an ambitious chance to leave a mark on the gangster genre, award-winning bestselling book in-hand. What results, however fresh the source material, somehow feels like a long slow walk in Alligator shoes. They all seem to be having a great time playing Gatsby with Guns having a slightly better time than the audience, at least , but no one here is walking away

with an award. More boorish than noirish, their playing field is an all-too-familiar turf that looks grand cinematographer Robert Richardson deserves special mention but is ultimately more of a trope-ical than tropical paradise. In this PG-rated adaptation of the Disney-fied fairy tale, a monstrous-looking prince Dan Stevens and a young woman Emma Watson fall in love, much to the chagrin of her self-absorbed suitor Luke Evans. And yet, like those other remakes, it all works beautifully His canvas, encompassing town and forest and castledom, exhibits a magical quality not altogether different from the original, but oftentimes moodier and more sarcastic in keeping with modern insensitivity, er, sensibilities. Of course, expecting Vol. Guardians of the Galaxy ranks as one of the top comic book movies of all time, on par with Superman and The Dark Knight. Moviegoers are right to assume that the sequel abides by the laws of the Andrea True Connection. Not all of it melds together in the fantastic way of the first go-round, however, because more plotpoints equal sprawl. Returning players get fleshed out more, new players get added into the mix, and the dynamic between them all becomes the fulcrum. The second finds Gunn, who returns as director as well, working solo. This is not to say that he fails. In fact, much of Vol. It just suffers a bit of a Thanksgiving effect. The pants feel a bit tight after such a varied and filling meal that sets you up for another round. In this R-rated future-set actioner, a weary Logan Hugh Jackman cares for an ailing Professor X Patrick Stewart , but their attempts to hide from the world and their legacies get upended when a young mutant arrives Dafne Keen , pursued by dark forces. In fact, in this world-weary future, the only recognizable things are Logan and Professor Charles Xavier. With Logan, the X-Men franchise and its extensions have jumped ahead many years without fully explaining the Hows and Whys. Not connecting these dots proves far more intriguing as it gives the tone and setting a nebulosness akin to a certain classic trilogy of Spaghetti westerns where the main character has no name. Set in a really down and dirty time for mutants, itself very western-esque, both of these characters are very blue in two very different manners--emotionally and filthily. What results is a road movie that allows each character to show a decent amount of heart as these two aging meta-humans undergo a lot of human changes. Oh, there are blood, guts, and set pieces aplenty but this is the most adult extension of the X-franchise for other reasons. Indeed, even set in a latter-day dystopia, this is the most grounded of X-Men outings because our heroes ultimately face off with their own mortality. At times head-turning and heart-wrenching in the same scene, this swan song goes for broke in all of the best ways. And what a plot it is. The fact that writer-director James Mangold who shares screenwriting credit with Scott Frank and Michael Green even positioned this as the final go-round for fan favorite Wolverine - or that Fox greenlit it - amounts to sheer bravery what was borrowed and built upon from the comic book alone deserves plaudits. Just listen to the summary: Such a bold move sounds more like stupidity as opposed to bravery but the end result is brilliantly executed. Hugh Jackman has played this role 8 times before but here, he is free to color outside of the lines. Likewise, Patrick Stewart gives a supporting turn that breaks the heart but also feels quite appropriate. Jackman and Stewart very much earn their tears as well. Truth and Claw Split A very welcome return to form from the filmmaker who gave audiences one of the greatest supernatural thrillers of all time, M. In this PG-rated thriller, three girls Anya Taylor-Joy, Haley Lu Richardson, Jessica Sula get kidnapped by a man with a diagnosed 23 distinct personalities McAvoy and try to escape before the apparent emergence of a more sinister 24th. It would be hard to reach the mantle of that particular gem, but it tries its damndest and viewers are the better for it. And yes, just like that old chestnut filmic amnesia, it stretches credulity beyond recognition but the suspension of disbelief is worth it for the twisted and thrilling character study that it provides. Believe it or not, however, his is not the main character. That honor falls on Casey Cooke who makes a great foil to the many faces of Crumb. She comes with a heart-breaking backstory but manages to get the heart pumping thanks to her never-say-die heroism in the face of unspeakable terror. Taylor-Joy, who honed her horror chops with Witch, a very different but nonetheless killer thriller, makes for a very convincing heroine, earning every tear and mad tear. McAvoy, however, sells through 23 different personalities, each with different inflections, tics, and looks. The Best of the Beast The Lego Batman Movie Building off of the block-busting success of the The LEGO Movie, a fun-tastic merging of snark and family friendly that was everything a flick about a plaything should

be, this Dark Knight rises to even greater heights thanks to its innate ability to satisfy both kids and the kids in all of us. In this PG-rated animated piece of pop-art, a cooler-than-ever Bruce Wayne Will Arnett must deal with the usual suspects as they plan to rule Gotham City, while discovering that he has accidentally adopted a teenage orphan Michael Vera who wishes to become his sidekick. Dawn of Justice, which was also funny but for entirely wrong reasons. This brings up another impressive point: This iteration is based on a toy and video game--two nearly impossible thresholds to pass when it comes to adaptations. Vampire Hunter non-fame, gets story credit, which is usually a bad sign that too many cooks are spoiling the broth. Instead, it would appear that each screenwriter used their specific gifts to work on developing and strengthening the many individual characters in this soup. Supporting players and cameos abound in this, a gleeful extension of the DC Universe in which Harry Potter and Doctor Who get to play everybody from Superman and Alfred the Butler to Voldemort and Daleks take part in the monkey business. Somehow, all of the pieces fit together wonderfully, especially the story, voices, and - most importantly - the sumptuous animation. The only possible deficit is that some of the jokes may not age well, but most of the brands included have already stood the test of time. With franchise fatigue setting in for audiences in regards to some series, moviegoers are right to be wary when it comes to broadening The LEGO Movie into offshoots. Super, Friends Rogue One: Part sci-fi flick, part sequel, part war movie, part prequel, and part character-driven adventure, Rogue One is many things to many moviegoers but the whole package proves quite entertaining, able to satisfy new fans while pacifying most long-time diehards save for the true curmudgeons. It shares much with that vaunted classic, including characters some beloved, some minor and interlinking storylines some kickass, some Easter egged. In fact, it even spackles fearing a deadly backlash, the words "improve upon" will be avoided certain plot holes from the original trilogy and provides audiences with a throughline to the second trilogy. Set during Imperial-Rebel wartime, this is a Beings-on-a-Mission film involving a disparate group of humanoids, aliens and one hilariously sarcastic droid think: In fact, because it bridges generations so well, it feels rather organic. Where Rogue One smartly diverges from the trilogies, however, is in regards to presentation. To this end, director Gareth Edwards Monsters uses a decent amount of hand-held in incorporating an overall grittier style than the franchise has ever seen. Again, we get the mixing of old and new, with the new being a very fresh performance. They also provide a great deal of humorous moments, which the often deathly serious film uses to its full advantage. Indeed, the entire package is an even mix--tone, genre, casting, and style This is not to say that such storytelling is easy work, however. For a teaching moment to be this heartwarming, entertaining, and rousing, it takes a very intelligent design and the true beauty of the film comes down to how the whole production explains a complex problem involving segregation and empowerment with such a single, satisfying solution.