

From Book to Movie: Discussion Prompts

Whether you have come from our staff book-to-movie adaptation list, or you and your child have found your own book-turned-movie, you may be wondering, *what's next?* Discussing similarities and differences between the book and its corresponding movie is a great way to encourage your child to reflect on what they have read. This resource provides a list of questions intended to spark discussion on literary elements such as setting, characters, plot, and central themes.

Additional Resources

For more on the benefits of movie and book comparison activities, see our previous blog post [“Using Technology to Motivate Young Readers in the Age of Digitalization”](#) by Annika Buell.

For a list of IRRC staff-picked books that have been adapted into movies, check out our article [From Book to Movie: Staff Picks](#).

For a tool to help children organize their thoughts while comparing books and movies, check out our [Book vs. Movie Graphic Organizer](#).

Discussion Questions

1. Compare the opening scene of the book to the opening scene of the movie. Do they start in the same place? What strategies do they use to draw their audience in? Which opening did you like better?
2. Consider the characters. Do they look the way you imagined them? Do they act the same as they do in the book? Are there any new characters or missing characters? Was your favorite character in the book also your favorite in the movie?
3. Think about the setting. Did the movie setting look like what you imagined while reading the book? How did it differ? How does the setting help establish the story's tone?
4. Consider the different perspectives offered in the book. What is the point of view? How does the author's perspective differ from the perspectives of the characters? How does the movie's point of view compare to the book?
5. What parts of the book did not appear in the movie? Were there any movie scenes that did not occur in the book? How did you feel about these changes, and how did they impact the story?
6. Choose a central idea or theme you noticed in the book. How did it develop, including its relationship to characters, setting, and plot? Was this theme central to the movie as well? How does the theme's development differ when on screen?
7. Consider how dialogue functions in the book. Does it move the plot forward, reveal aspects of a character, or contribute to the overall tone? Was hearing the dialogue in the movie similar to what you imagined while reading? Did its function differ?
8. Compare the ending of the book to the ending scene in the movie. Are they the same or different? If there are differences, how do they affect the way the ending made you feel? Which ending do you prefer?
9. Did you like the book or the movie more? Why? If you had been the director of this movie, what would you have done differently?

