

A dramatic scene from a dinosaur movie. A massive T-Rex is roaring with its mouth wide open, showing sharp teeth and a pink tongue. It stands in a lush, green landscape that is being consumed by a volcanic eruption. In the background, a large volcano is erupting with bright orange and red lava flows and thick plumes of dark smoke. Several meteors are streaking across the sky. In the foreground, three people are sitting inside a transparent glass dome, looking towards the dinosaur. The overall atmosphere is one of intense action and danger.

# Year 7 English

Developing a Critical Voice



# Developing a Critical Voice



- One of the most important skills for students to master at English in Secondary School is having a **Critical Voice**.
- You will need to use your Critical Voice when you study any **text** – which is another word for any novel, short story, poem, newspaper article, diary, etc., at Secondary School.



# Developing a Critical Voice



- So, what is a Critical Voice?
- Having a Critical Voice means becoming a **critic** of sorts or being **critical** of the texts you read at Secondary.
- A **critic** has their own thoughts, views, beliefs about what they are watching, reading, eating, doing.
- One of the most important things in developing a critical voice is using **evidence**: the evidence is quotations and references to the text you read.
- As a Secondary School teacher, I am always *amazed* by the level of knowledge and skill that new Year 7 students have when analysing how writer's write their texts – students are often able to identify adjectives, similes, metaphors, and explain why they have been used for effect.
- However, students coming into Year 7 will be expected to continue to demonstrate their own thoughts and opinions about what they study.
- By having critical voice, you will **read, analyse, evaluate** and come to your **own conclusions** about what you have read.



# Developing a Critical Voice



## Task

- Think about the role of a film critic, a book critic, a music critic. What do they do?
- Research a review of a favourite book, film, videogame, television show, or something totally different.
- For example, have a look at this [BBC review of Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker](#).
- What does the reviewer think about the film? How do they present their ideas? Are they being fair or unfair? Are they using evidence? Why?