

Mini reviews

Top Feel-Good Movies

A MOVIE, A TV SHOW, AND A NOVEL BY AVERY THOMPSON

ACCORDING TO OUR POLL | FEEL-GOOD METER IS OUT OF 10.
BY AVERY THOMPSON



“The LEGO Movie”

“The LEGO Movie” is an incredible animated feat that manages to provide not only a meaningful story, but also laughs aplenty. The story follows Emmet, played by the always-lovable Chris Pratt, who lives under the assumption that he is nothing more than ordinary. However, he’s mistaken for the hero who has the key to saving the world, and Emmet is wholly underprepared. Emmet must discover his inner hero, all while being surrounded by pop culture’s greatest superheroes. Pratt is accompanied on this epic quest by an all-star cast of voice actors including Elizabeth Banks, Will Ferrell and Morgan Freeman. “The LEGO Movie” proves that everyone has the ability to be extraordinary. This fantastic animated comedy can be enjoyed by all ages. Photo by Warner Bros. Pictures/MCT

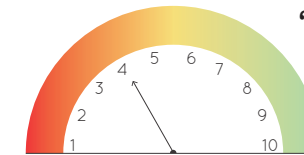
“About a Boy”

Over 10 years after the beloved film adaptation starring Hugh Grant and Nicholas Hoult, “About A Boy” returns to the small screen. David Walton stars as Will Freeman, a successful songwriter and careful bachelor who befriends Marcus, played by Benjamin Stockham, an awkward, young misfit who moves next door. Through their prospective journeys toward maturity, Will and Marcus have a lot to learn from each other. In this adventure comes a quirky and genuine comedy that’s a breath of fresh air in the world of television. The chemistry between Walton and Stockham is effortless — despite the age difference, there is no shortage of wit between the two. With a whimsical and delightful script along with convincing chemistry of the two leads, “About A Boy” is the most promising comedy (and bromance) of 2014. Photo by Jordin Althaus/NBC



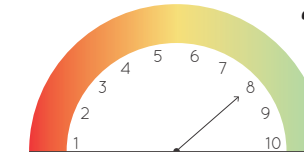
“One Last Thing Before I Go”

Jonathan Tropper has yet again brought another beautiful and painful family drama to the fold. “One Last Thing Before I Go” is a poignant story of redemption. Drew Silver is at the worst stage of his life: He’s living off a momentary one-hit wonder from his younger days in his quest to become a rock legend, and the only reaction he receives from his ex-wife and Princeton-bound daughter is pity. Silver never reached his own personal apex, and he allowed his life and family to suffer. So when he needs a life-saving heart surgery, he turns it down. Instead, he uses his ticking time bomb to focus on becoming a better father and live each moment as if it’s his last, literally. The best aspect of Tropper’s latest novel is that his characters are incredibly likable even in their own fallibility and that’s what makes them so relatable to readers. “One Last Thing Before I Go” is a charming and compelling tale that proves that everyone’s worth a second chance. Photo by Google images



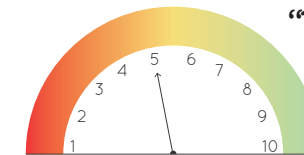
“Steel Magnolias” (1999)

This one pleasantly shocked us. Many polltakers cited this as their top feel-good movie. While we understand the overwhelming warmth of friendship surrounding this movie, it doesn’t lessen the hurt of watching M’Lynn’s (Sally Field) daughter Shelby (Julia Roberts) tragically pass. However, points are made up for Dolly Parton’s hair and Shirley MacLaine’s epic portrayal of Ouiser.



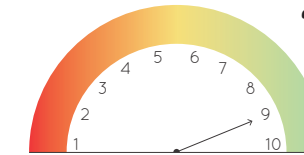
“You’ve Got Mail” (1998)

Five years after their classic tale in “Sleepless in Seattle,” Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan reunited for another round of romance. The film is adorably cute and the epitome of a chick flick, but watching Hanks and Ryan on screen is magical. “You’ve Got Mail” will leave you with a smile on your face and chuckling at how popular AOL was before the invasion of Facebook, Twitter and even MySpace.



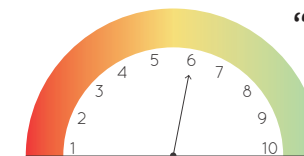
“10 Things I Hate About You” (1999)

To fall in love or not to fall in love? That is the question. Over the years, this teen film adaptation of William Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” has become a classic. Watching Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles verbally spar at each other in the name of love never gets old. This clever comedy about teenage love isn’t sappy whatsoever and rivals the 1980s classic “The Breakfast Club.”



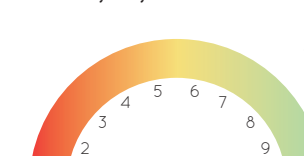
“Little Miss Sunshine” (2006)

This quirky comedy about a family trekking across the United States to take their young daughter to the finals of a beauty pageant was one of the best of 2006. The journey encompasses all emotions, as the family must come together for the sake of little Olive (Abigail Breslin). Hilarious hijinks follow the family on their trip as well. This little indie film packs an unexpected punch about the importance of family and is a lovely ray of sunshine in a dark theater.



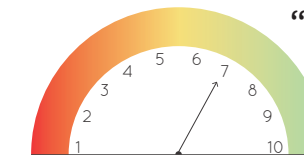
“Remember The Titans” (2000)

Before there was “Friday Night Lights,” there was “Remember the Titans.” This 2000 sports film is a surefire touchdown. The film never felt like a history lesson; it seamlessly flowed racism in the 1970s into a profound film about putting aside social differences for a common cause: football.



“Finding Nemo” (2003)

This brilliant animated Disney film is a beloved story about a father, Marlin (Albert Brooks), on a desperate search to find his son, Nemo (Alexander Gould). On his search, Marlin encounters and catches many friends along with way, including the hilarious and whimsical Dory (Ellen DeGeneres). There is no way not to love this gem of a movie. As much as Dory proclaims “Just keep swimming,” all we want to do is keeping watching. Also note: the highly anticipated sequel “Finding Dory” is set to hit theaters in 2016.



“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” (1986)

“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off” is a genius coming-of-age comedy that is perfect anytime, anywhere. When Ferris decides to skip school, wild shenanigans ensue. This John Hughes flick put Matthew Broderick on the map and made skipping school cool. Also, we’re still waiting on someone to usurp Ferris’ title as King of Parades.

Illustrations by Traci Carver

Most Devoted Fandoms

THE DEFINITIVE LIST OF 2014'S MOST DEVOTED FANDOMS
BY AVERY THOMPSON

Watching television isn't just a personal thing anymore. Most popular television shows have a collective kingdom of fans where fans can discuss, debate and fight over who should belong with whom. Here are a few of the most devoted fanbases in 2014:



Photo by Helen Sloan/MCT

Game of Thrones

- Facebook: 9,644,114 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 1.8K
- Twitter: @GameOfThrones
1,263,213 followers
- Time/Network: Sundays
9/8c on HBO
- Nickname/Slogan:
"Winter is Coming"
- Rating on IMDb: 9.5



Photo by Carin Baer/Fox/MCT

Glee

- Facebook: 24,295,442 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 103K
- Twitter: @GLEEonFOX
2,774,364 followers
- Time/Network: Tuesdays
8/7c on FOX
- Nickname/Slogan: Gleeks
- Rating on IMDb: 6.9



Photo by MTV

Teen Wolf

- Facebook: 3,697,109 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 12.5K
- Twitter: @MTVteenwolf
785,175 followers
- Time/Network: Mondays
10/9c on MTV
- Nickname/Slogan:
Teen Wolfers
- Rating on IMDb: 7.8



Photo by Robert Viglasky/
Hartwood Films/PBS/MCT

Sherlock

- Facebook: 2,977,287 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 44.7K
- Twitter: @BBCOne
- Time/Network: 9/8c on PBS
(In the U.S.)
- Nickname/Slogan:
Sherlockians
- Rating on IMDb: 9.3



Photo by Gene Page/Courtesy
AMC/MCT

The Walking Dead

- Facebook: 25,849,434 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 8.1K
- Twitter: @WalkingDead_AMC
2,347,752
- Time/Network: Sundays
9/8c on AMC
- Nickname/Slogan:
Dead Heads
- Rating on IMDb: 8.7



Photo by Annette Brown/The CW

The Vampire Diaries

- Facebook: 20,684,919 likes
- Fanfiction.net: 30K
- Twitter: @cwtvd
639,923 followers
- Time/Network: Thursdays
8/7c on The CW
- Nickname/Slogan: TVDers
- Rating on IMDb: 8.2