

High-Intermediate 2
Unit 3 Reading
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Read this video review from the entertainment section of a newspaper.

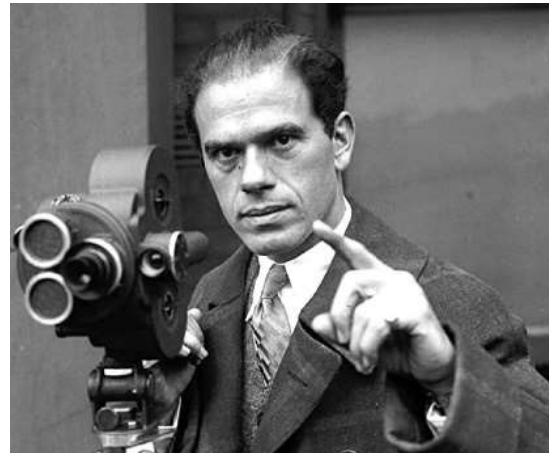
Best Bets for Holiday Viewing

Best bet = best option
Viewing = watching a movie



It's A Wonderful Life (1946)

Rating: **** out of ****
Director: Frank Capra
Producer: Frank Capra
Screenplay: Frank Capra, Frances Goodrich, Albert Rackett, and Jo Swerling
Stars: James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers
Running Time: 129 m
Parental Guidelines: suitable for whole family



Frank Capra

rating = evaluation score
****** out of ****** = four out of the four possible stars ⇒ an excellent movie
screenplay = movie script
running time = the length of the movie
m = minutes
guidelines = advice



James Stewart



Donna Reed

What would have happened if you had never been born? George Bailey learns the answer in Frank Capra's great movie classic *It's a Wonderful Life*.

When the movie opens, George is standing on a bridge contemplating suicide. Throughout his life, he has sacrificed his dreams in order to help other people. He could have gone to college if the family business hadn't needed him. He would have traveled around the world instead of remaining in his hometown of Bedford Falls. Now, facing bankruptcy and a possible jail sentence, George decides to end his life by jumping into the river. Enter Clarence, an angel sent to help him. Clarence jumps into the water first, certain that, as always, George would put aside his own problems in order to rescue someone else.

contemplate = think about, consider

throughout = during

sacrifice = give up

He could have gone to college if the family business hadn't needed him.

Conditional Sentence Type III

- His family business needed him.
- He didn't go to college.

bankrupt (adjective) = unable to pay back your debts

bankruptcy (noun) = being bankrupt

jail = prison

sentence = punishment

jail sentence = imprisonment

Enter Clarence = Clarence enters the scene.

rescue = save

George Bailey is altruistic.

altruism (noun) = willingness to do things that bring advantages to others, even if it results in disadvantage for yourself

altruistic (adjective) = showing altruism

Safely back on land, George tells his guardian angel, "I suppose it would have been better if I had never been born at all." "You've got your wish: You've never been born," responds Clarence.

guardian Angel = an angel who protects us

respond = answer, reply

Clarence then teaches George a hard lesson. In a series of painful episodes, he shows him what life would have been like in Bedford Falls without George Bailey. George goes back to the site of his mother's home. He finds, instead, an old, depressing boarding house. If George had not supported his mother, she would have become an embittered, overworked boarding house owner. George's own home is a ruin, and his wife Mary is living a sad life of isolation. Each scene is more disturbing than the last, until finally we end in a graveyard. We see the grave of George's little brother Harry. If George hadn't been alive, he couldn't have saved his younger brother Harry's life. Harry would have drowned in a childhood sledding accident. And Harry would have never grown up to be a war hero, saving the lives of hundreds of soldiers. "Harry wasn't there to save them because you weren't there to save Harry," explains Clarence. "You see, George, you really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to throw it away?"

without George Bailey = if George Bailey had not been born

boarding house = a very cheap hotel which provides only a bed

embittered = disappointed

ruin (noun) = a ruined place

isolation = loneliness

disturbing = annoying

grave = tomb, burial place, last resting place, mausoleum

graveyard = cemetery, burial ground, garden of remembrance

drown = die in water



sled = a vehicle for moving on snow; sledge

sledding = riding a sled over snow

The ending of the movie delivers a heartwarming holiday message. *It's a Wonderful Life* shows us the importance of each person's life and how each of our lives touches those of others. We see through George's eyes how the lives of those around him would have been different if he hadn't known them. This movie is highly recommended for the whole family.

heartwarming = pleasant, encouraging

The suffix “-cide” means “killing”	
Word	Meaning
suicide	killing oneself
regicide	killing a king or queen
matricide	killing one’s mother
patricide	killing one’s father
fratricide	killing one’s brother or sister
insecticide	a chemical substance which kills insects
pesticide	a chemical substance which kills pests

pest = a destructive insect or other animal that attacks crops, food, livestock, etc.

Full Text:

Best Bets for Holiday Viewing

What would have happened if you had never been born? George Bailey learns the answer in Frank Capra's great movie classic *It's a Wonderful Life*.

When the movie opens, George is standing on a bridge contemplating suicide. Throughout his life, he has sacrificed his dreams in order to help other people. He could have gone to college if the family business hadn't needed him. He would have traveled around the world instead of remaining in his hometown of Bedford Falls. Now, facing bankruptcy and a possible jail sentence, George decides to end his life by jumping into the river. Enter Clarence, an angel sent to help him. Clarence jumps into the water first, certain that, as always, George would put aside his own problems in order to rescue someone else.

Safely back on land, George tells his guardian angel, "I suppose it would have been better if I had never been born at all." "You've got your wish: You've never been born," responds Clarence.

Clarence then teaches George a hard lesson. In a series of painful episodes, he shows him what life would have been like in Bedford Falls without George Bailey. George goes back to the site of his mother's home. He finds, instead, an old, depressing boarding house. If George had not supported his mother, she would have become an embittered, overworked boarding house owner. George's own home is a ruin, and his wife Mary is living a sad life of isolation. Each scene is more disturbing than the last, until finally we end in a graveyard. We see the grave of George's little brother Harry. If George hadn't been alive, he couldn't have saved his younger brother Harry's life. Harry would have drowned in a childhood sledding accident. And Harry would have never grown up to be a war hero, saving the lives of hundreds of soldiers. "Harry wasn't there to save them because you weren't there to save Harry," explains Clarence. "You see, George, you really had a wonderful life. Don't you see what a mistake it would be to throw it away?"

The ending of the movie delivers a heartwarming holiday message. *It's a Wonderful Life* shows us the importance of each person's life and how each of our lives touches those of others. We see through George's eyes how the lives of those around him would have been different if he hadn't known them. This movie is highly recommended for the whole family.

Sample Summary:

In *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey, feeling hopeless and contemplating suicide, is shown by his guardian angel Clarence what life would be like if he had never been born. Through a series of distressing visions, George learns how his absence would have negatively impacted his family and community. This journey reveals the significant and positive impact of George's life on those around him, delivering a touching holiday message about the value of each person's life. This movie is highly recommended for family viewing.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/high2/>