

# Title: *2001: A Space Odyssey*

(Released in 1968 )

Director: Stanley Kubrick

## Approved for use in

### Summary of the Work:

"*2001: A Space Odyssey* is a 1968 epic science fiction film produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick. The screenplay was written by Kubrick and science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke, and was inspired by Clarke's 1951 short story "The Sentinel" and other short stories by Clarke. Clarke also published a novelisation of the film, in part written concurrently with the screenplay, after the film's release. The film stars Keir Dullea, Gary Lockwood, William Sylvester, and Douglas Rain, and follows a voyage by astronauts, scientists and the sentient supercomputer HAL to Jupiter to investigate an alien monolith" (Wikipedia.com).

### The film will be viewed in the following manner:

- Full-length film** (\*Note: Must have purchased appropriate rights. If uncertain, contact your Teacher-Librarian for copyright guidelines.)

**Clips of film**

### Rationale:

*2001* is a science fiction classic renowned not only for its impressive scientific accuracy, special effects, tense plot, and symbolic ending, but also for its incredible impact on all sci-fi filmmaking and storytelling that came after. Because this film is notoriously complex (receiving dramatically diverse critical responses in part due to audiences' varied understandings of its meaning) it is ripe for analysis in the classroom. Its ambiguity leads to deep discussions, and the filmmaking techniques employed are groundbreaking and open to literary interpretation of symbolism, juxtaposition, characterization, and imagery.

### Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

[Roger Ebert \(4/4 stars\)](#)  
[The New Yorker](#)

- \* Resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any Teacher-Librarian to view the scholarly sources.
- \* Scholarly reviews are also available online. Contact the Teacher-Librarian for guidance.

### Noted Distinction:

"*2001: A Space Odyssey* is widely regarded as among the greatest and most influential films ever made. It is considered one of the major artistic works of the 20th century" (Wikipedia.org).

- 1969 Academy Award for Best Special Visual Effects (Also nominated for Best Director, Best Screenplay, and Best Art Direction)
- BAFTA for Best Art Direction, Best British Cinematography, and Best Soundtrack
- Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation
- National Board of Review Awards Top 10 Films
- #1 Science Fiction film on the American Film Institute's 10 Top 10 list

### Content Rating: G

### Learning Resources Guidelines

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- The film meets the [Learning Resources Guidelines](#) and [Board Policy](#).

## Approval:

Submitted to Committee: 9/15/23

Approved for Adoption:

## Notes on the Film:

*(The best way to evaluate and understand a film is to personally watch the film in its entirety.)*

This film is a challenging view due to the long, slow sections that demand reflection. Critics have noted this quality, but in a classroom setting we have the opportunity to discuss what some critics also mention: how Kubrick uses filmmaking techniques to ask that his audience do some of the "work" in this film—we must participate by thinking deeply and seeking meaning. The symbolism is present and intentional, yet ambiguous and great fun to parse using analysis strategies. It's literary rather than popular, and while no one would describe it as lighthearted fun or a "popcorn movie," it's deep and engaging at an intellectual level.

## Connection to the Curriculum:

This film pairs well with the original Arthur C. Clarke short story "The Sentinel," allowing students to compare interpretations of the core concepts presented in both works. There are also abundant articles, essays, and even books either offering critical reviews or analyzing the meaning of this intricately crafted film. In the Science Fiction classroom, it will be used in the "Possible Human Futures" unit due to its plot about future space travels, space stations, etc. and its themes of humanity, otherness, and our innately human ability to adapt to changes in technology.

**Standard Alignment:** *(Type which standard number then link to specific standard document on OPI website.)*

[RL.11-12.1](#)

[RL.11-12.2](#)

[RL.11-12.3](#)

[RL.11-12.7](#)

[SL.11-12.2](#)

## Additional Connections:

*(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Other Films, Novels, etc.)*

*This film pairs well with any study of the Hero's Journey as well as Science Fiction.*