This week your child is reading *Coming Distractions: Questioning Movies*, which gives information and advice to movie viewers.

**Vocabulary on the Go**  What is a movie that your child hopes to see? Talk about why the movie appeals to your child. Use some of these words in your discussion.

advertise  entertaining  thrilling  critics  promote

**Why Do You Think That?**  As you watch TV with your child, offer an opinion about a commercial, starting with “I think that....” Talk about facts that would support your opinion. Then ask your child to offer an opinion about another commercial and provide facts to support that opinion.

A fact can be proved true. An opinion cannot be proved true or false, but it can be supported by facts and good reasons.

**Movie Guide**  How do moviegoers make choices about what they will see? Together, find examples of brief reviews of family films from movie guides, newspapers, or websites. As you read selected reviews, talk about what makes a movie sound appealing to your child.

Help your child write a short review of a favorite movie, explaining why others should see it.
Lights! Camera! Action!  Read and discuss this selection with your child.

What’s the Angle?

When you view a movie, you see the action from the viewpoint of the camera. You might see a house from a distance. Then you see a window in the house. After that, you see a face in the window. A movie director makes many decisions about camera angles. This makes the movie more entertaining to watch.

An establishing shot is used to show the whole setting, like a forest or a city. It might be taken from far above, so that viewers feel as if they’re flying above the setting.

A long shot also shows the setting from a distance, but viewers now feel closer to the action. They can see more details, like a path through the woods or the buildings on a street.

A medium shot shows the actors. Viewers can see their bodies and faces as they do something together.

A close-up focuses on an actor’s face or an object, as if viewers were just a few inches away.

Mood Music  Your child is the main character in a movie! What will the character be doing in the opening scene? What music will fit with that action? Ask your child to select the music and describe the scene.

Book Links
- Gershwin’s Rhapsody in Blue, by Anna Harwell Celenza
- Cartoons and Animation, by Richard Spilsbury  CHALLENGE

Internet Challenge  Your child may have How do they do that? questions about special effects, stunts, animation, or other movie “magic.” Together, explore websites that provide answers.