



Annual Examinations for Middle Schools 2025

YEAR 7

ENGLISH SOURCE BOOKLET

In this booklet, you will find the texts which you need to read to be able to answer the reading comprehension and literature questions in the Main Paper.

SOURCE A1

Listings Search

Streaming

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Broadcast TV New York OTA Broadcast

Afternoon

Today

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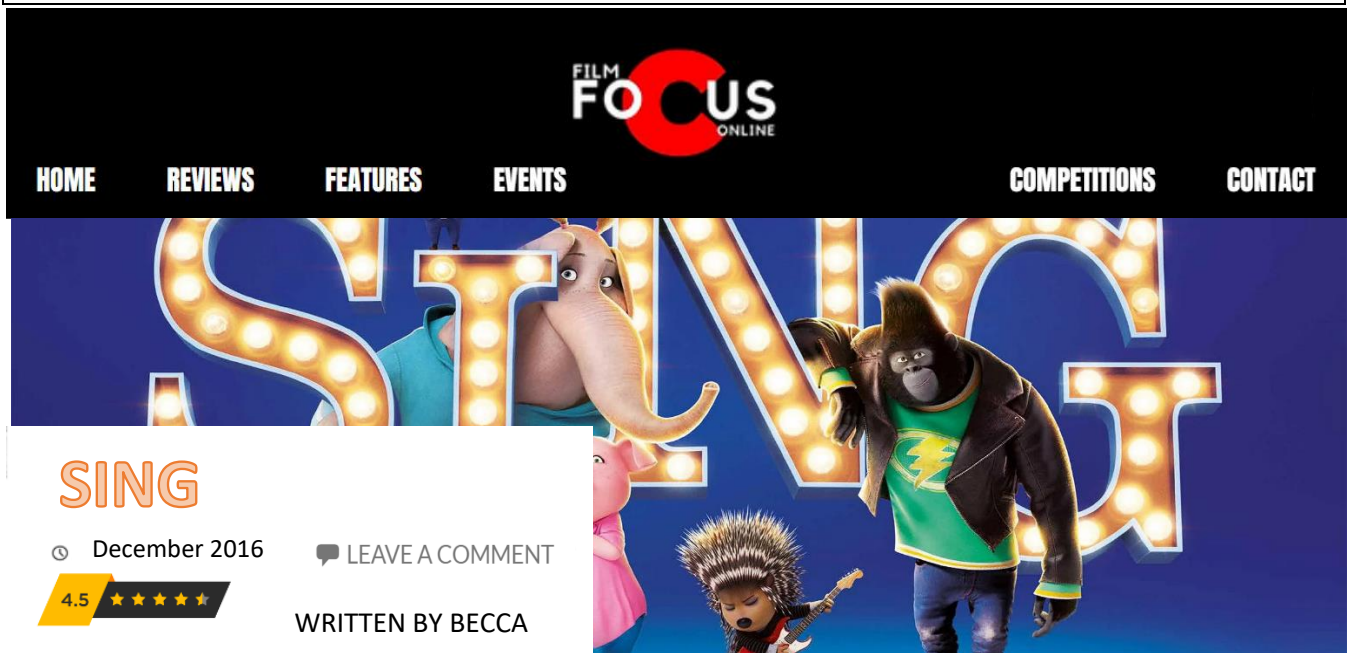
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Local TV Guide

Channels	16:00	16:30	17:00	17:30	18:00	18:30	19:00
1	Jojo and Friends Watch once again the fun adventures of Jojo the gorilla and his forest friends.	A Join this week's new young contestants in this show that tests your knowledge about science, maths and literature.	Bears In this original series, filmmakers Alastair Fothergill and Keith Scholey chronicle a year in the life of an Alaskan brown bear named Sky and her two cubs, Scout and Amber.	2014 Dance to the latest tunes as you watch Ella's choice of teen music for this show.	Ella's Party In this comedy, two retired spies are pulled back into duty for an important assignment. Will they still manage to do their job with two children? Watch this movie to find out.	Spy Kids 2001 Join Freddy as he interviews different celebrities in his beautiful sitting room. The show includes loads of giveaways both for the live audience and for those watching it at home.	Freddy Temple's Talk Show Join Freddy as he interviews different celebrities in his beautiful sitting room. The show includes loads of giveaways both for the live audience and for those watching it at home.
2	The Wheel of Fortune Watch today's competitors try their luck in winning the huge jackpot by spinning the wheel.	Chef's Special: Road to York British Chef Peter Conrad is in another stage of his cooking trip on his way to York. Today he will be in Helmsley cooking traditional local dishes.	Antiques Market Antiques expert, Pat Brown, visits people's attics in search of treasure.	B Had a tough day at work? Watch this show and relax by watching hilarious videos sent in by viewers worldwide.	Spotlight on the match John Spencer and David Brown discuss the highlights and performance of the two teams.	Football Match LIVE <i>Sheffield United vs Chelsea</i> Watch these two teams battle it out for the second place in the league.	C Coverage of the day's major sports events, with in-depth analysis and commentary.
3	Olympics from Paris Today is Day 5 and viewers can watch the first round of the swimming competitions and the final of the high jump.						



"Sing", a PG-rated movie by animation company Illumination, is one of the biggest pleasant surprises of 2016, not because it is especially great, but because it is much better than a movie about singing, talking animals ever needs to be. Unlike other animated movies released this year which have animals as main characters, such as "Finding Dory", "The Secret Life of Pets" and "Zootopia", "Sing" is a very charming film and holds its own really well.

A.

In this fantastic world, the busy city of Calatonia is brought to life by a colourful **cast** of humanlike animals, particularly the leading character, a koala named Buster Moon. He owns a struggling theatre and to save it, he decides to organise a singing competition. This attracts a variety of **talented** animals with dreams of **stardom**: Rosita the pig, a caring mother of 25 piglets; Ash, a teenage porcupine punk rocker; Johnny, a young gorilla with a talent for singing but who comes from a family of **criminals** and finally, Meena, a shy elephant with an incredible voice. All these characters obviously love to sing, and we watch their story develop within the course of the movie.

Out of all the characters, Miss Crawly is by far my favourite. She is Buster Moon's loyal but clumsy assistant. She's an elderly iguana with a glass eye which she loses all the time. She cracks me up! Interestingly, her voice belongs to Garth Jennings, the director of the movie himself!

B.

Now, let's be honest! The base story is not original at all. We have seen the 'save the farm/ school/ house/ theatre' plot a million times which makes the story very predictable.

However, there are some things which really work in "Sing". First of all, I truly liked the bright, colourful animation bringing to life a diverse cast of characters, each with

30 their unique personalities and talents. The high-quality animation successfully manages to create stunning visuals that captivate the audience, making the movie more memorable and it also helps express a wide range of emotions, helping viewers connect with them on a deeper level.

C.

35 The other win for me in "Sing" is its catchy music. Watching a musical with 85 classic songs may seem too much. Yet, the way music combines into the narrative is extremely enjoyable. Like all good musicals, the movie uses a mix of modern hits and classic songs which drive the story forward and encourage the audience to sing along.

D.

40 And finally, "Sing" has a very positive message. It shows how once you hit rock bottom, there's nowhere else to go but up! It beautifully calls attention to the themes of determination, following your dreams, and believing in yourself. So, Buster Moon's optimism throughout the whole 108 minutes of the film and all the participants' efforts to win over their fears will surely affect the viewers.

E.

45 "Sing" is a joyful, energetic movie that will fascinate the audience with its likeable characters and irresistible music. Overall, "Sing" has something to offer particularly to a junior audience. So, if you're looking for a musical treat or just a fun and touching story for movie night, then "Sing" is the perfect choice for you.

Adapted from <https://www.rottentomatoes.com/>

SOURCE B

It was a big, dull, brick house, exactly like all the others in its row, but on the front door there shone a brass plate on which was engraved in black letters:

**MISS MINCHIN,
Select Seminary for Young Ladies.**

5 "Here we are, Sara," said Captain Crewe, making his voice sound as cheerful as possible while they mounted the steps and rang the bell. Sara often thought afterward that the house was somehow exactly like Miss Minchin. It was respectable and well-furnished, but everything in it was ugly; and the very armchairs seemed to have hard bones in them. In the hall everything was hard and polished—even the red cheeks of
10 the moon face on the tall clock in the corner had a severe varnished look. As she sat down in one of the stiff mahogany chairs, Sara cast a quick look about her.

 Just then Miss Minchin entered the room. She was tall and dull, and respectable and ugly. She had large, cold, fishy eyes, and a large, cold, fishy smile. It spread itself into a very large smile when she saw Sara and Captain Crewe. She had heard a great
15 many desirable things of the young soldier, mainly that he was a rich father from India who was willing to spend a great deal of money on his little daughter.

 "It will be a great privilege to have charge of such a beautiful and promising child, Captain Crewe," she said. "I was told about her unusual cleverness. A clever child is a great treasure in an establishment like mine."

20 When Sara entered the schoolroom the next morning everybody looked at her with wide, interested eyes. Miss Minchin immediately informed her that she believed her father wanted her to learn French as he had employed a French maid for her. Sara tried to explain that she already knew how to speak French, and that the maid had been employed because she was respectable but Miss Minchin interrupted Sara quickly
25 before anyone could discover that Ms Minchin did not speak French herself.

 "That is enough," she said with polite tartness. "If you have not learned, you must begin at once. The French master, Monsieur Dufarge, will be here in a few minutes. Take this book and look at it until he arrives."

30 When Monsieur Dufarge arrived, little Sara rose in her seat and began to speak in pretty and fluent French. Miss Minchin started quite violently and sat staring at her over her eyeglasses, almost indignantly, until she had finished. Monsieur Dufarge began to smile and stated, "Sara doesn't need to learn French; she *is* French".

 "You ought to have told me!" exclaimed Miss Minchin, much mortified, turning to Sara.

35 "I—I tried," said Sara.

 Miss Minchin knew she had tried, and that it had not been Sara's fault that she was not allowed to explain. And when she saw that the pupils had been listening and that Lavinia and Jessie were giggling behind their French books, Ms Minchin felt infuriated.

40 "Silence, young ladies!" Ms Minchin said severely, rapping upon the desk. "Silence at once!"

And she began from that minute to feel rather a grudge against her show pupil, Sara Crewe.

Adapted from the classic *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

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