

Text Type: Film review  
Suggested finishing time: 15 mins

# Starlight, Starbright

Let's think! 

1. Which film have you watched recently?
2. Do you read relevant reviews of a film before watching it?

*Starlight, Starbright*, first released in February 20XX, was the blockbuster of that year. It stars Ronald Hui as Rebel, a talented guitar player who takes part in numerous singing contests, and John Chan as his father. It is based on a best-selling novel of the same title by Audrey Ho launched in the same year. Directed by Alex Wong, the widely acclaimed Oscar-winning director, it has successfully vied for the spotlight, with fans craning their necks for months for its release.

The plot is about the love-hate relationship between Rebel and his father. The son considers music to be the love of his life, although his father is averse to it. When the story begins, Rebel is a dutiful son, performing well both in school and at home, which pleases his father. Because of his father's objection, Rebel dare not practise the guitar at home. Meanwhile, however, he enters music competitions on the sly in several countries to gain experience of music performance. After winning his first award, Rebel decides to tell his father the truth. This is the film's climax. The love and grudge shown there between father and son deeply touched my heart and, I think, those of many in the audience as well.



The film was shot in different locations, including Hong Kong, England and America, which impresses the audience with a strong sense of reality. The soundtracks resonate with what is expressed in the scenes, and *I Still Adore You*, the theme song produced and sung by popular singer-songwriter Ryan Wu, is especially outstanding as it emphasises the tight bond between the father and the son. As a new actor, Ronald Hui surprises me with his performance. His acting has radically levelled up in this film. Rebel's sob after the fight scene with his father is heartrending. Because of the sublime and engaging background music, I couldn't help recalling a similar experience of mine as 'Rebel'—a bitter fight with my parents. Meanwhile, John Chan's performance is, as always, flawless due to his commitment to his role. He exemplifies outstanding acting, with his eye contact, body language and the way he speaks, in his role as a conventional, strict, yet helplessly loving father.



*Starlight, Starbright* is highly recommended to anyone who is fond of topics on family ethics. It will definitely move your heart.

~370 words

## Moral

The father-son relationship is the most important kinship in Asian patriarchal culture. It celebrates obedience to the father as a sign of respect.

## Looking into Grammar

'Due to' is used to express the cause of something. It functions in the same way as 'because of', which is followed by a noun phrase.

✓ The activity was cancelled **due to** / **because of** (✗ because) the rain.

? Circle an example each of 'due to' and 'because of' in the film review.

## Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the film review. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. The first paragraph is about \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the major characters in the film
  - B. an award-winning film director
  - C. the film's background information
  - D. a gifted guitar player
2. In line 1, the word 'blockbuster' means a film that is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. loved by few audience
  - B. starred by famous actors
  - C. newly released
  - D. very successful
3. Rebel's father is contented with his son's \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. enrolling in overseas music competitions
  - B. achieving good grades and behaving well
  - C. practising the guitar elsewhere than at home
  - D. earning experience from music performance
4. Read line 9. The word 'it' refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Rebel's music performance
  - B. various music competitions
  - C. the love-hate relationship between Rebel and his father
  - D. Rebel considering music to be his life's pursuit
5. In line 13, 'on the sly' means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. publicly
  - B. secretly
  - C. simultaneously
  - D. accidentally
6. Which of the following is TRUE?
- A. The writer finds Rebel's experience relatable.
  - B. The writer feels sorry for the son.
  - C. The soundtracks and background music are below standard.
  - D. Ronald performs better than John.

**6** Interpret the writer's evaluation of the film's music and compare the comments on the two actors.

7. The writer thinks *Starlight, Starbright* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a controversial film
  - B. a boring film
  - C. a genuine film
  - D. an ordinary film

**3** Rebel has never done anything to intentionally please his father.

### More to Take Away

A soundtrack is a separate recording of music that accompanies a film or a drama. The first film soundtrack album was the one from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, which was released in 1937.



Self-evaluation  
Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

## Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the film review. For question 3, answer in a complete sentence.



1. Read line 17. The word ‘those’ refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

1 Think about how the film’s climax affects its viewers.

2. Look for words in the film review to match the definitions below.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| (i) _____ (para. 1)   | (adj.) having the ability to do something well |
| (ii) _____ (para. 2)  | (v.) to be brave enough to do something        |
| (iii) _____ (para. 3) | (n.) an act of crying noisily in gasps         |
| (iv) _____ (para. 3)  | (adj.) extremely good or enjoyable             |

3. Read lines 7-8. Why does the writer describe the relationship between Rebel and his father as a ‘love-hate relationship’? Explain your answer.

4. Circle FOUR adjectives suitable for describing the father.  
traditional / friendly / stubborn / loving / serious / open-minded

4 Draw clues from paragraph 3, and then from the interaction between Rebel and his father.



5. Complete the summary below about the people and their contributions.

Name	Occupation	Contribution
(i) _____	director	(ii) _____ the (iii) _____ <i>Starlight, Starbright</i>
(iv) _____	actor	played Rebel
John Chan	actor	played (v) _____
Audrey Ho	(vi) _____	wrote the (vii) _____ <i>Starlight, Starbright</i> , which was (viii) _____ for the film of the same title
(ix) _____	(x) _____	produced and sang the (xi) _____ <i>I Still Adore You</i>

### Let’s Discuss!



- Which film has influenced you the most? Why?
- Which crew member do you think matters the most to a film?

## Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the titles of members of a film crew and components of a film from the word box.

soundtrack

editor

lighting

special effects

director

cameraman

screenplay

screenwriter

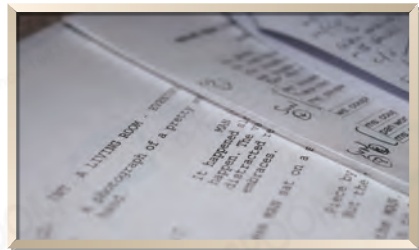
Members of a film crew

Components of a film



1.

responsible for



2.



3.

responsible for



4.

videotaping and



5.

responsible for



6.



7.

overseeing



8.