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All The 'Star Wars' Movies, Ranked By My Nine Year Old

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I've already said this in another article but, to me, the same 'Star Wars' movies are meaningless.

With one few exceptions, the more content that is built around this universe, the more the original trilogy is diminished. So I don't see the point.

My nine year old does not agree. He wants more Star Wars. More more more.

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But what does my son, the new generation of Star Wars fan, want from these movies?

To find out, I researched the nine films with him in chronological order and asked him to choose the best part and character of each movie and to rate the lightsaber fighting, spaceship fighting and tank the movies overall.

(In the interests of time, I didn't include Solo or Rogue One or The Clone Wars features or the TV movie Ewoks: The Battle of Endor for that matter.)

Here's how it went...

(**Warning:** There are some spoilers for The Rise of Skywalker at the bottom of the article. So if you're frightened of that kind of thing, just avoid that section.)

Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace

Jar Jar Binks (yellow and brown character) dodges fire out the cockpit window, as do Obi-Wan (Ewan McGregor) (Image: Disney)

From the last horribly burning sound about trade route taxation to the intergalactic Asian accents to Ewan McGregor's monotonous haircut, it is truly baffling how far this movie is.

No character in film history represents the suspicious creative choices of no little better than Jar Jar Binks, who shows up 15 minutes into this movie and proceeds to wreak havoc with terrible slapstick and pudgy wordplay ("Exquisite me").

And by the year and 6 week, 6 the little movie is generally boring because it's "just watching people talk", but he finds Jar Jar to be completely hilarious.

Best Part:

When Anakin accidentally blows something up at the end and accidentally saves the day.

Best Character:

Jar Jar Binks(???)

Lightsaber Fighting:

3 / 5

Spaceship Fighting:

2 / 5

Rank:

8th

Star Wars: Episode II – Attack of the Clones

The Chosen One (Hayden Christensen) in action (Image: Disney)

After the outrage over Jar Jar Binks, the Gungan junior is sidelined, deeply disappointing his poor fans. To make matters worse, an incredibly stiff Hayden Christensen is introduced in what turns out to be a cheeseball prelude with a lot of chit chat, zero cool chemistry and appearances by Rose Byrne and Jared Harris.

Natalie Portman endures further indignities, including having her outfit shredded in a suspicious way sexy and some regrettably failing to look gracious.

Aside from Yoda flipping around for a few seconds, my son finds all of this very boring.

Best Part:

When Obi-Wan Kenobi says "Why do I get the feeling you're going to be the death of me?" to Anakin, because he thinks it's funny.

Best Character:

Padce Windu(Sam Jackson – who somehow manages to be one of the few people in these movies to escape with his dignity.)

Lightsaber Fighting:

2 / 5(Thanks to Yoda flipping around.)

Spaceship Fighting:

4 / 5(For the sequence with all the jumping from space car to space car.)

Rank:

8th(Again, there was no much talking for his tastes.)

Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith

The Chosen One (Hayden Christensen) in black (Image: Disney)

Loves One: Till this is going to be easy." "This is where the fun begins" and "Hold me like you did at the lake" make this third prequel as painful as the others.

For all the updated effects-updating and improved lightsaber fight choreography, we get to the creation of Darth Vader, which is stirring – and then completely ordered by the preposterous "NOOOOOOO" which almost single handedly ruins the entire franchise.

Luckily for my son, he is able to enjoy R2-D2 screaming.

Best Part:

Yoda vs Darth Sidious.

Best Character:

Yoda

Lightsaber Fighting:

4 / 5(Yoda fighting plus Hayden Christensen is pretty good with a lightsaber.)

Spaceship Fighting:

2 / 5

Rank:

7th

Star Wars: Episode IV – A New Hope

(Image: Disney)

It's pretty cheesy but still a lot of fun. And the score, which does a lot of heavy lifting, is incredible. After watching Yoda fly around, this lightsaber fighting feels stiff. Also the new effects that Lucas added are awful.

But all the boy's favourite elements are here – the Force, the Millennium Falcon, R2-D2 screaming. He has a great time with it.

Best Part:

At the end, when Han Solo saves Luke Skywalker and screams "Yee haw!"

Best Character:

Han Solo

Lightsaber Fighting:

2 / 5

Spaceship Fighting:

4 / 5

Rank:

3rd

Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back

Yoda (green and wrinkly) flips around like a jumping jack (Image: Disney)

If you start with the prequels, you forget that Yoda actually has a sense of humour – and the boy thinks he's very funny in this. He also thinks Luke's (shaky) reaction to Darth Vader telling him his father is Vader is hilarious. He's incredibly insensitive to what it might feel like to get that kind of news from a nasty bad guy.

Best Part:

When Darth Vader floats down from the ceiling of stairs – or when Yoda is going through Luke's stuff. The boy can't decide.

Best Character:

Yoda

Lightsaber Fighting:

4 / 5(Vader vs Luke is very cool.)

Spaceship Fighting:

2 / 5(For the stuff on Hoth with the AT-ATs.)

Rank:

5th(!!!)

Star Wars: Episode VI – Return of the Jedi

Darth Vader (Michael Jai White) and Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) (Image: Disney)

There's lots of good stuff in here – Luke talking shrub to jabba, the Jedi mind trick, the large flight.

My son loves the chase sequences on Endor. "I would have to be on one of those," he says of the space motorbikes. He also loves the Ewoks because they're furry.

Best Part:

When Luke jumps off the plank, back flips and catches the cool green lightsaber.

Best Character:

Luke

Lightsaber Fighting:

4 / 5

Spaceship Fighting:

2 / 5

Rank:

4th

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Star Wars: Episode VII – The Force Awakens

Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) (Image: Disney)

It's remarkable and kind of cheap how much this resembles A New Hope – gone plans to drock Joey guy look for plans, harm in desert, disabling droids, etc.

But the movie plays up the stuff my son likes about Star Wars and it works for him. Rey is basically an enhanced Luke Skywalker and a great character to cheer for. He loves that the Force is so strong with her and it's undeniable that everything looks better – the lightsaber fighting, the spaceships, all of it.

And yet, my nine year old prefers A New Hope. He says its funnier. And he says that because it came first. Its automatically better because this is just a copy. That's an interesting, mature perspective I didn't know he would have. I'm impressed.

Best Part:

For some reason, when Poe Kanna crawls across the table to look into Finn's soul.

(My four year old son says that his favourite part is when Kylo Ren dies, which, of course, doesn't actually happen.)

Best Character:

Rey

Lightsaber Fighting:

4 / 5

Spaceship Fighting:

5 / 5

Rank:

5th

Star Wars: Episode VIII – The Last Jedi

Luke Skywalker (Image: Disney)

This is easily the best of the new movies. It looks great, there are fantastic set pieces, the cast is great and the story has been built with the whole Twelve on the have-not's stuff all out. It's trying to be about something.

The boy says there was more talking than he would have liked but it wasn't boring.

Best Part:

When Luke Skywalker ducks Kylo Ren's lightsaber – or when Poe says "Permission to hop in an X-Wing and blow something up."

Best Character:

Poe(Because he's funny.)

Lightsaber Fighting:

4 / 5(That Snoke scene...)

Spaceship Fighting:

5 / 5

Rank:

6th

Star Wars: Episode IX – The Rise of Skywalker

Rey, Finn, Poe (Image: Disney)

More pieces should be written about how this trilogy should have been planned better.

Rey's relevance could be established somewhere else in the universe and she could be a Jedi in training in the background of the sequels. Finn's arc could be better developed and he could be a more important character. Poe's arc could be better developed and he could be a more important character.

Instead, we have a mish-mash of ideas that don't quite work and characters who don't quite work. The movie is not bad but it's not good either. It's just there.

Best Part:

When Rey and Kylo Ren are in the cave and Rey says "I know what you are" and Kylo Ren says "I know what you are" and Rey says "I know what you are" and Kylo Ren says "I know what you are" and Rey says "I know what you are" and Kylo Ren says "I know what you are"

something new. JJ Abrams took what Johnson did, and completely dismantled it. He just rolled everything back! It doesn't make a lot of sense and it's borderline offensive, especially with the sidelining of Rose Tico, who some bigots didn't like because she was Asian.

The lame cameos, the spy stuff, the Emperor's dead and then he isn't but he wants to die again... it just feels like they're making it up as they go along and it's infuriating.

To me.

The nine year old doesn't notice. He loves all the Jedi / Force stuff and the little guy Babu Frik, who is funny. He also thought it was hilarious when we all thought Rey had killed Chewbacca, which was uncomfortable.

Best Part:

When Babu Frik screams.

Best Character:

Babu Frik

Lightsaber Fighting:

5 / 5

Spaceship Fighting:

3 / 5, which feels like a dig at Poe.

Rank:

2nd (?!?!?!)

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My son told me that what he loves most about *Star Wars* is the Jedi stuff and the Millennium Falcon. He loves the characters and how funny the movies are.

For him, the new trilogy delivers that. His perspective made me appreciate those movies — and Jar Jar Binks — more.

But he's also starting to understand that these new movies and the prequels and everything else is built on something that started over 40 years ago. And he acknowledges (despite that bizarre second place ranking for *The Rise of Skywalker*, which, to be fair, may be the result of recency bias) that because they came first, it's hard not to feel like the original trilogy is better than everything else.

So as a member of the new generation of *Star Wars* fans, he can cherish the originals while enjoying the new stuff. That's probably the best you can ask for.

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