

Reading

7 a Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- Do you prefer books, films or plays? Why?
- Do you usually read reviews before going to see a film or play, or buying a book? Why/Why not?
- Have you ever liked something that had a lot of bad reviews, or not liked something that everyone else loved?

b If a book has been made into a film, which do you usually prefer, the book or the film? Which of the following opinions do you agree or disagree with? Why?

The book is always better than the film because the film always cuts bits out and changes too much.

The film has to be seen as a separate thing – why should it be just like the book?

You should always see the film first, then read the book.

I prefer books because you can imagine the characters in your mind. The film just spoils that.

8 a Read the reviews. Which appeals to you the most? Why?

b Read the reviews again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- The reviewer thinks that the puppets in *War Horse* are better than the actors.
- The reviewer preferred the film of *War Horse* to the play.
- The reviewer thinks the play is realistic.
- The audience were very enthusiastic about *War Horse*.
- The Shadow of the Wind* has sold a lot of copies.
- The reviewer thinks the story in *The Shadow of the Wind* moves slowly.
- The book Daniel chooses is very rare.
- The reviewer liked everything about the book.
- New Moon* is the second in a series of films.
- The reviewer thinks that the acting in the film is very good.
- The reviewer doesn't say anything positive about the film.
- There are some similarities between the film and a Shakespeare play.

Theatre

War Horse

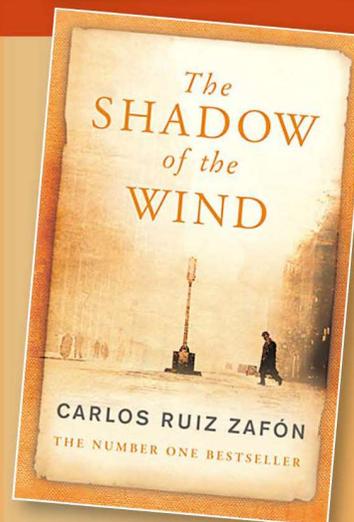
War Horse, adapted from the book by Michael Morpurgo, tells the story of a horse in the First World War. Before seeing the play I couldn't imagine how this story could work on stage – but it does. Joey and the other horses in the play are astonishingly life-like puppets and they steal the show. Very quickly, you come to completely believe in them and the unfolding story. In fact they are so good that the human characters seem less well-rounded in comparison. The sound effects are also incredible and with the dramatic lighting create the terrifying sensation of being right in the middle of battle. Although *War Horse* is not a musical, the musical score is a highlight, with simple but beautiful melodies and lyrics. The play is altogether an amazing spectacle and I was unsurprised when the applause from the audience lasted for more than five minutes at the end. Now I can't wait to see Spielberg's film version!



Books

The Shadow of the Wind

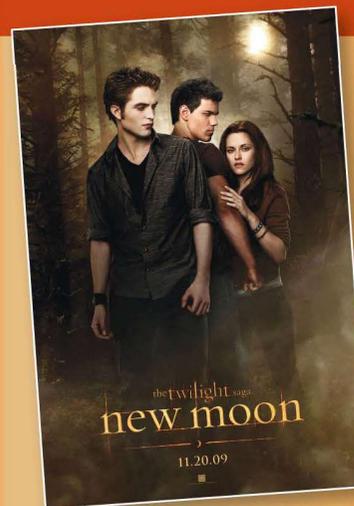
A worldwide best-seller from the Spanish author, Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind* is an unusual and moving book which will undoubtedly become a modern classic. The book is set in Barcelona where there is an old bookshop, called the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, right in the centre of the old city. As its name suggests, the bookshop sells only forgotten and out of print books. The main character, Daniel, visits the bookshop as a child and is allowed to choose a book to keep and look after. The book he chooses is called *The Shadow of the Wind*. As he grows up several people seem very interested in this book, which is the only copy left in the world. Gradually, he discovers that he is in great danger from a mysterious man who has the same name as one of the characters in the book. *The Shadow of the Wind* is full of atmosphere and is part thriller, part love story. Both the descriptions and dialogue are beautifully written and the plot is a real page-turner. The first chapter in particular took my breath away. If I have one complaint, it is that the ending feels rather sudden, but perhaps that's just because I couldn't put it down.



Film

The Twilight Saga: New Moon

The Twilight Saga, based on the books by Stephenie Meyer, tells the story of a young girl whose boyfriend is a vampire. Robert Pattinson plays the role of the vampire, Edward Cullen, and Kristen Stewart stars as the heroine, Bella. In this sequel to the first film, *Twilight*, Bella is abandoned by Edward and starts a relationship with Jacob, a werewolf. Robert Pattinson is a well-established heart throb, and the film seems to be aimed very much at teenage girls, with plenty of romantic scenes. Fans of the books will love it, of course, but in my opinion the performances are rather dull, and the film failed to make me care about any of the leading characters. Some people have compared elements of the story to Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, suggesting that the vampires and werewolves in the film are like the rival families the Montagues and the Capulets in the play. However, I don't think Shakespeare would approve of the plot – it's completely absurd. In fact the only thing I would recommend about the film is the soundtrack, which includes songs from The Killers and Editors, and makes a great album.



Vocabulary | describing pastimes

9 Look at the Lifelong learning box and read the tip. Then complete the table with the words and phrases in bold from the reviews.

Noticing vocabulary

! When you read a text about a particular topic, you will often find words and phrases that you could use yourself to speak or write about this topic.

	Noun or noun phrase	Verb or verb phrase	Adjective or adjectival phrase
Books	best-seller <i>author</i>	<i>The book is</i> set in ...	<i>beautifully</i> written
Theatre/ Musicals			
Film			

Lifelong learning

Pronunciation | sounds and spelling: 'a'

10 a Listen to the words in the box. Decide if the underlined letter 'a' is pronounced /æ/ or /eɪ/, and put the words in the correct column.

abandoned album based chapter character
classic danger page soundtrack vampire

/æ/	/eɪ/

b 'a' is often pronounced /eɪ/, when the pattern is 'a' + consonant + 'e'. What other spelling patterns with 'a' make the sound /eɪ/?

See Pronunciation bank page 163

Speaking

11 a Think about a book you have read or a play or film you have seen. Then make notes about the topics below. Try to use some of the words and phrases in the Lifelong learning box.

- when/why you read or saw it
- the plot
- the characters
- why you enjoyed it

b Work in pairs and describe your book, film or play to your partner. Use your notes to help you. Answer your partner's questions.