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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA

PALEY EDUCATION @Home
presented by **citi**
What We're Watching



Greetings from The Paley Center for Media's Education Department!

Welcome to the latest installment of "What We're Watching." Twice a month the education department reaches out to the community with tips and ideas for consuming media with kids by highlighting different themes that connect to two selected programs, one for younger viewers and one for older viewers, each with related activities and resources.

Watching media alongside your kids is a perfect jumping-off point to making media literacy a part of your everyday lives. Familiarizing yourself with the basics is a great first step. You can [view our first newsletter about media literacy best practices archived here](#). We also recommend the [National](#)

[Association for Media Literacy Education's Parents Guide](#)—it's a terrific introduction!

What We're Watching: 10 Million SRK Fans Can't Be Wrong

Movies exist to share stories and through them we expand what we know about the world and often, we learn about cultures and people different from our own. With this in mind, we anticipate our recommendations this week, which shine a spotlight on Indian moviestar Shah Rukh Khan, aka SRK or "King Khan," will do just that. Khan has starred in over ninety movies and is one of the most successful actors in the world. Famous throughout Asia and across the Desi diaspora, he is not nearly as well known as he should be in the American mainstream. What made Khan famous initially was playing a romantic lead, and the romance genre naturally is the best introduction to SRK for those unfamiliar with his work. We hope you find happiness, humor, and a bit of escapism while watching these films, while at the same time learning something new about India, one of the world's most colorful, vibrant, diverse, and interesting places.

This Week's Recommendations for Younger Viewers

Diwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995)

Recommended for Grades 6+

Available on Prime

Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge, or *DDLJ*, as it is known among Indian fans, has been playing in Mumbai's Maratha Mandir theater an astonishing twenty-seven years since its release. The plot revolves around Raj and Simran, two young nonresident Indians living in London, who fall in love during a vacation through Europe with their friends. Raj tries to win over Simran's family so the couple can marry, but Simran's father has long since promised her hand to his friend's son.

Viewing Questions

- How would you describe Raj? What kind of person is he and what is his relationship with his father like?
- How does his father react when he learns that Raj has flunked out of school?
- Describe Simran. What is she like and what is her relationship with her parents like?
- How does Simran convince her father to let her travel through Europe with friends for the summer? Why is it easy for him to trust that she won't get into trouble?
- What does she promise she will do at the end of the trip?
- How do Raj and Simran meet? Why does Simran dislike Raj at first? How does their relationship evolve over the course of the summer trip?
- What does Raj decide to do when Simran suddenly leaves for India to be

married?

- How does Raj earn the trust of Simran's father to win the hand of Simran?

Extension Activity

[Learn the Mehndi Laga Ke Rakhna Dance](#)

[How to Look and Style Like the King Khan](#)

Additional Resources

Read

The Little Book of Hindu Deities: From the Goddess of Wealth to the Sacred Cow by Sanjay Patel

Watch

Bride and Prejudice (2004)

Chak de India (2007)

Ra.One (2011)



This Week's Recommendations for Older Viewers

Om Shanti Om (2007)

Recommended for Grades 9+

Available on Netflix

This blockbuster film is both romance and fantasy, and overall an extremely fun tribute to the Bollywood film industry. The story takes place across three decades and hits all the tropes of the genre. It might feel indulgent to some but it is highly entertaining in a way that can only be pulled off in a Bollywood film. Shah Rukh Khan costars with Deepika Padukone in her Hindi debut. In the movie, Khan portrays Om Prakash Makhija, a broke young man living with his

single mother and hustling with his best friend to be an extra on film sets. He's smitten with an actress named Shanti, but when he gets the chance to meet her, this moment of fate weaves together their story across lifetimes. Set across three decades thanks to a reincarnation, it is an epic story of romance, revenge, and redemption.

Viewing Questions

- In what ways is the beginning of the film similar to a fairytale? When does that change?
- What is Om like when we first meet him and how does that compare to his second life and personality after he is reincarnated?
- How are old films woven into the story and what is the effect?
- What moments did you notice that the film was self aware and what effect do you think this has on the viewer?
- What do you learn about the Bollywood film industry, stardom, and filmmaking in general from watching the movie?

Additional Resources

Read

["Revisiting Om Shanti Om" from *Film Companion*](#)

["Why Om Shanti Om Is the Bollywood Movie Everyone Needs to See Once" from *MovieWeb*](#)

Watch

Amrapali (1966)

Devdas (2002)

Dil Se (1998)

Humjole (1970)

Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998)

Main Hoon Na (2004)

Mohabbatein (2000)

Pathaan (2023)

Quick Gun Murugan (2009)

As always, if you have any questions, thoughts, or ideas, don't hesitate to reach out to us at eduny@paleycenter.org.

Happy viewing,

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Photos—DDLJ: Yash Raj Films; Om Shanti Om: Eros International

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