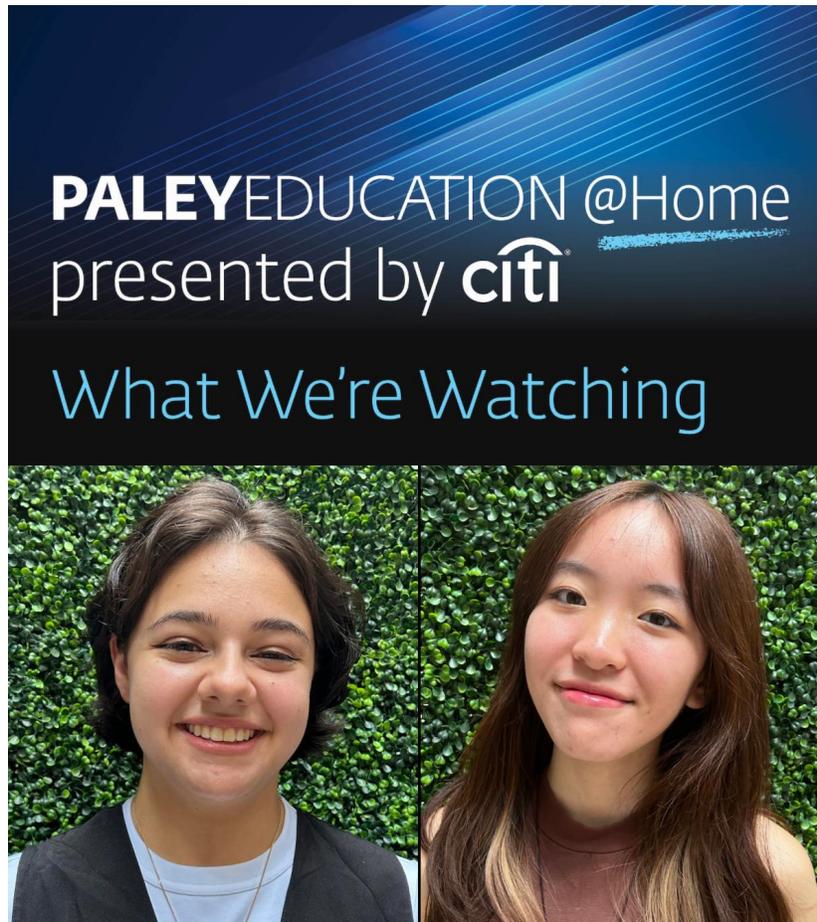


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THE PALEY CENTER FOR MEDIA



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

Teen Transmitters Takeover!

For eight weeks, What We're Watching is being taken over by the Paley Center's Teen Transmitters internship cohort!

Each week a different pair of interns will share their thoughts on the 2023 media landscape along with personalized recommendations. This week we hear from Ava Canadé, a rising senior at Fort Hamilton High School, and Dorothy Ha, a rising senior at Stuyvesant High School. Enjoy this unique educational opportunity to hear directly from young voices about media that

impacts them!

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

Happy viewing,
Rebekah Fisk, Director of Education
Carlos Pareja, Manager of Education
Joseph Cupo, TT 2023 Summer Educator

What We're Watching: Slice-of-Life

When life becomes overwhelming, it's easy to escape into the lives of others. The slice-of-life genre has recently seen a massive skyrocket in popularity thanks to the warm comfort and relatability it provides through media. Slice-of-life's versatility also allows it to blend with multiple other genres and media formats. We have curated our favorite slice-of-life YouTube channels, TV shows, and movies for you to enjoy. From the life of a college student in D.C. to that of a pink-haired psychic, there's something for everyone in this diverse genre.

This Week's Recommendations:



Linh Truong

Age Recommendation: 14+

Where to Watch: YouTube

Vlogs, or video blogs, have been part of the media landscape as soon as cameras became more accessible to the general public. This form of content allowed for regular people to share their lives along with the ability to record memories for posterity. Since the inception of YouTube in 2005, it has become a hub for vloggers to upload their videos.

Of the many vloggers active on YouTube, one of my favorites is Linh Truong. Starting her channel in high school, Linh's videos follow her through quarantine, college admissions, her first two years at Georgetown, and recently, going back to school after taking a gap year and her adventures. Linh's videos show the trials and joyful moments of growing up and forging a path for yourself in the world. She also often discusses the different aspects of

being a content creator and how she manages the balance between YouTube, work, school, and personal life.



Ponyo (2008)

Age Recommendation: 5+

Where to Watch: Max

Slice-of-life movies do not always have to be strictly realistic in order to qualify as such. Studio Ghibli movies often blur the lines between realism and fantasy while still retaining depictions of the often mundane actions in our lives while using beautiful animation and musical scores to elevate them into art.

The 2008 film *Ponyo* follows the story of Ponyo, a goldfish who meets a five-year-old boy named Sosuke, and the consequences of her learning more about human life on land. While full of fantastical elements and magic, *Ponyo*'s focus on the relationship between Ponyo and Sosuke and Ponyo's adjustment to human life allows it to be categorized as a slice-of-life movie. From having her first meal on land to her disagreements with her father, we get a glimpse into the life of a girl growing up and finding what she wants out of life.



Boyhood (2014)

Age Recommendation: 15+

Where to Watch: Tubi

If you're looking to watch a slice-of-life film, look no further than *Boyhood*.

Filmed over the course of eleven years, the movie follows Mason Evans (Ellar Coltrane) as he transitions from innocent childhood to turbulent adolescence. Throughout his early life, Mason faces several familial issues as he grows up with divorced parents, endures violence from his mother's new partners, and argues with his older sister, Samantha (Lorelei Linklater). Meanwhile, he also struggles through young romance and tries to discover himself.

As the years pass by, viewers see the actor age in real time: Mason's baby fat melts away in place of stubble as wrinkles crease his parents' skin. *Boyhood's* depiction of the passage of time is simultaneously elegant, moving, and powerfully authentic. Mason's life progresses in an emotional blur, with quintessential life events like first loves, parties, and fights sprinkled throughout. His growth is both unique and achingly relatable. The plot is supported by the film's beautifully modest camerawork, which allows emphasis to be placed fully on the characters and their troubles and triumphs. Ultimately, *Boyhood* is a gorgeous exploration of the human experience that tells a complex story through only a few simple glimpses of one boy's tumultuous life.



The Disastrous Life of Saiki K. (2016)

Age Recommendation: 13+

Where to Watch: Netflix

Saiki Kusuo is a young student who despises attention and is determined to lead a quiet, normal high school life. Unfortunately, Saiki is not quite a normal boy. He possesses various strong psychic powers that allow him to read minds, teleport, move objects with his mind, and more. *The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.* focuses on Saiki as he attempts to keep his powers a secret from his wacky classmates.

Despite the obviously fictional elements and the abnormal situations that Saiki frequently gets himself tangled in, the anime is still a great slice-of-life show. Its purely episodic format follows Saiki as he navigates daily life, facing comedic dilemmas one after another. Each episode starts an entirely new story arc, and viewers will certainly be itching to see what predicament Saiki and his colorful cast of classmates must face next. Each peek into Saiki's life is always sure to be entertaining.

Additional Slice-of-Life

Recommendations:

YouTube:

Alex Bondoc
Dobochoho
Leigh Ellexson
Natasha Elle
Paloma the Peach
Radhia Rahman
Via Li

TV and Movies:

Bee and Puppycat (Netflix)
Flavors of Youth (Netflix)
Gravity Falls (Disney+)
Kiki's Delivery Service (Max)
Never Have I Ever (Netflix)

Enjoy,

Ava and Dorothy

Photos—Linh Truong; YouTube; *Ponyo*: Studio Ghibli; *Boyhood*: IFC Productions; *The Disastrous Life of Saiki K.*: Bandai Namco Studio

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