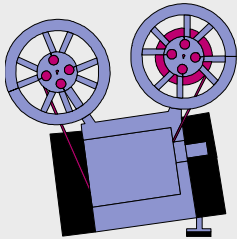


Raiders of the Lost Ark



Action / Adventure (PG)

1981

Directed by Steven Spielberg

Starring Harrison Ford, Karen Allen

Screenplay by Lawrence Kasdan

Story by George Lucas and Philip Kaufman

Academy Awards: Best Art Direction, Best Effects,

Best Film Editing, Best Sound

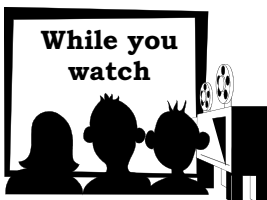
Academy Award nominations: Best Picture, Best

Director, Best Cinematography, Best Music

Included in the American Film Institute's top 100 films



This film is a great example of the action-adventure genre. Its fast pace and edge-of-your-seat excitement keeps the audience rooting for the hero and hissing at the villains—in this case, the Nazis. This genre emphasizes plot—providing plenty of obstacles for the hero to overcome—making it acceptable for characters to be stereotypes. In this case, however, the central characters are given depth, adding to our enjoyment of this entertaining romp.



This is Spielberg and Lucas' big-budget homage to the cliffhanger serials of the 1930s and 40s. These low-budget, thrill-packed adventures featured such heroes as Zorro, Rocket Men, The Tiger Woman, Captain America, Junior G-Men, and many more colorful heroes. Each short installment ended with the hero in imminent danger (often hanging from a cliff, thus the name), encouraging the audience to return to the theater the following Saturday.

Sit back and enjoy this roller-coaster ride!

Studied in This Lesson

Character development

Plot development

Film Techniques

Irony

Character motivation

Exposition

Action hero

Comic relief

Mood

Tight Plot

Foreshadowing