



The big debate

Should we stop remaking movies?

Some people say new versions are unnecessary, but others enjoy them.

What you need to know

- The first movie made with a “motion picture” camera was a 2.11-second short film called *Roundhay Garden Scene*, in 1888.
- An 1896 movie called *Playing Cards* became the first known remake when a filmmaker created a new version of it the same year.
- Many movies made in the US are remakes of foreign films.
- Filmmakers sometimes adapt source material, like a book or play, that already has a movie version.



From *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to *Freaky Friday* and *The Little Mermaid*, many hit children's movies have been remade over the years. Some animated films, like *101 Dalmatians*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and *Moana*, have been reimagined as live-action movies, while the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series started out with real actors before being re-created in animated form. For some filmmakers, putting their own twist on a classic is an exciting creative endeavor, and many fans enjoy seeing old favorites in new ways. Yet other people say new movies should have original ideas and tell modern stories. What do you think? Should we stop remaking movies?

Yes—fresh ideas are better

Older movies should be left alone out of respect for the talent, creativity, and hard work that went into making them. Remaking movies just disregards all that effort and the vision of the original filmmakers. Plus, it's hard for a new version to live up to an original, especially if the first film is a classic or it's one that people have fond memories of watching. A movie should be evaluated on its own terms rather than always being compared to its original material. Besides, there are so many new ideas and stories worth telling. They will be more timely and current and can address modern events and ideas.

No—remakes have value

As long as people want to see remakes of old movies, let them! It's fun for new generations of moviegoers to see a classic film reimagined, and it's thrilling for parents to show their kids a new take on a film they loved. Besides, two filmmakers can have very different approaches to telling the same story, especially if they're both adapting it from an original source, like a book. No one says theater companies should stop performing new versions of Shakespeare plays, right? Remakes can also update classic stories so today's viewers can relate to them. That will help older stories find new audiences that might not otherwise see them.

YES Three reasons we should stop remaking movies

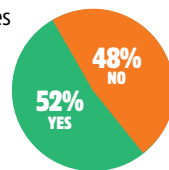
- 1 Remaking a movie disrespects the effort that went into making it and the creative vision of the filmmaker.
- 2 Remakes often aren't as good or popular, especially if the original was a hit.
- 3 There are so many new ideas out there. We should focus on telling new stories instead of retelling old ones.

NO Three reasons we should not stop remaking movies

- 1 It's fun to see an old film reimagined and for parents to share remakes of their favorite movies with their kids.
- 2 Two different filmmakers will produce very different versions of a movie, which is creatively interesting.
- 3 Remakes can freshen up older stories and open them up to entirely new audiences.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if jaywalking should be allowed. Your votes showed that you see both sides of the issue: 52% of you said yes, and 48% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think we should stop remaking movies or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.