**Hollywood Vs. the Truth: Comparing Books, Films & Reality**

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In ELA Reading Literature, the CC standard "Integration of Knowledge and Ideas" (for eighth grade) says:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.8.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RL/8/7/) Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama stays faithful to or departs from the text or script, evaluating the choices made by the director or actors.

With the film award season in full swing, and knowing students love movies, I offer the following articles, culled from the news (and other sources) that might be used to help teach that standard.

Many students may have seen the current crop of docu-dramas (e.g. 'Lone Survivor,' 'Saving Mr. Banks,' '12 Years A Slave,' 'Captain Phillips,' 'Wolf of Wall Street,' 'Philomena,' and 'Mandela' just to name a few). Or they may be familiar with some of those movies from last year: 'Lincoln,' 'Argo,' 'Zero Dark Thirty,' or 'Hitchcock'. But how many have read the books on which these films have been adapted?

No doubt, if they HAVE read the book (or are familiar with the facts of an historical event), then they are more knowledgeable about and can speak to the "differences" as well as "what was omitted from the film." In variably there is the debate about which was better: the book or the movie?

To assist in this endeavor, I offer, below several recent articles that your students could access and read as part of meeting standard RL8.7

**Fact Checking Lone Survivor (Salon)**

<http://www.salon.com/2014/01/17/lone_survivor_a_fact_check_partner/>

**The True Story of 12 Years A Slave (TIME magazine)**<http://entertainment.time.com/2013/10/18/the-true-story-of-12-years-a-slave/>

**The Wolf of Wall Street: The True Story (TIME magazine)**

<http://entertainment.time.com/2013/12/26/wolf-wall-street-true-story/>

**Captain Phillips: Movie Vs True Story**<http://www.historyvshollywood.com/reelfaces/captain-phillips.php>

**The Real Mandela vs. The Movie Version (Salon)**<http://www.salon.com/2013/12/07/the_real_mandela_vs_the_movie_version/>

**Searching for Philomena's Real Son**<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/12/fashion/Philomena-True-Story-Michael-Hess.html>

**True or False: Fact Checking Films is Futile (The Hollywood Reporter)**(available via EBSCO)

**Just How True Are Hollywood's 'True Stories'?** <http://tinyurl.com/lgg2x8l>

**Films Inspired by True Events Walk A Tricky Line (LA Times)**<http://articles.latimes.com/2013/nov/21/news/la-en-real-life-stories-20131121>

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