



'Wicked' Movie Faces Green Skin Trigger Warning in the U.K.

Description

The anti-green skin rhetoric prevalent in *Wicked* has prompted the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) to issue a trigger warning pertaining to "discrimination." According to the regulatory body, observing the mistreatment of "beloved characters" may prove to be "upsetting and poignant" for certain segments of the audience.

Elphaba, the formidable Wicked Witch of the West, portrayed by the talented British actress and singer Cynthia Erivo, endures a tumultuous childhood fraught with bullying stemming from her distinctive green complexion. This incessant harassment inflicts deep emotional scars, culminating in scenes that the BBFC describes as "emotional and distressing," until her eventual acceptance.

Furthermore, regulators have highlighted instances of a disabled woman in a wheelchair who is subjected to condescending treatment by able-bodied individuals, alongside the persecution of anthropomorphic animals within this fantastical society as additional rationale for the content warning and PG rating. Elements such as "occasional threatening scenes," "brief moments of terror," and an ending that is "not wholly reassuring" were duly considered in the rating process.

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Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo. Photo Illustration by Thomas Levinson/The Daily Beast/Getty/Universal Pictures

The BBFC guidelines for PG ratings explicitly assert that discriminatory language or conduct “should be clearly disapproved of,” allowing for limited usage if context justifies it—specifically if it is reclaimed or historical in nature without any malicious intent. Notably, a study conducted by the BBFC in 2021 revealed that parents favor content warnings regarding racism and discrimination to facilitate informed viewing choices while simultaneously recognizing the value in exposing children to these issues as preparation for real-world experiences.

The BBFC’s decision concerning *Wicked* has elicited mixed responses. Writer Simon Evans derided the



content warning in an interview with *The Daily Mail*, labeling it “ridiculous and counterproductive,” suggesting it diminishes excitement and drapes the narrative in an atmosphere more akin to a corporate seminar than a cinematic experience.

Conversely, columnist Stuart Heritage articulated a defense of the BBFC’s rationale in *The Guardian*, positing that Elphaba’s green skin serves as a powerful allegory for racial prejudice—an assertion elucidating the organization’s moral obligation to highlight the contentious depictions underlying *Wicked*’s PG classification.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Rhetoric** /ˈrɛtərɪk/ (noun): The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing.
2. **Prevalent** /ˈprɛvələnt/ (adjective): Widespread in a particular area at a particular time.
3. **Poignant** /ˈpɔɪnjənt/ (adjective): Evoking a keen sense of sadness or regret.
4. **Tumultuous** /tjuːˈmʌltʃuəs/ (adjective): Characterized by unrest or disorder.
5. **Condensing** /kənˈdɛn.sɪŋ/ (verb): Making something denser or more concise.
6. **Discrimination** /dɪs,krɪməˈneɪʃən/ (noun): The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the formidable Wicked Witch of the West in the story of *Wicked*?

- Option: A. Elphaba
- Option: B. Glinda
- Option: C. Dorothy
- Option: D. The Wizard

2. Which actress portrayed Elphaba in the *Wicked* film?

- Option: A. Meryl Streep
- Option: B. Cynthia Erivo
- Option: C. Emma Watson
- Option: D. Angelina Jolie

3. What prompted the British Board of Film Classification to issue a trigger warning for "discrimination" in *Wicked*?



- Option: A. Treatment of animals
- Option: B. Elphaba's green complexion
- Option: C. The musical numbers
- Option: D. The ending

4. Which publication did writer Simon Evans criticize the content warning of *Wicked*?

- Option: A. The Guardian
- Option: B. The New York Times
- Option: C. The Daily Mail
- Option: D. The Washington Post

5. What did columnist Stuart Heritage posit about Elphaba's green skin in *Wicked*?

- Option: A. It symbolizes courage
- Option: B. It represents power
- Option: C. It serves as an allegory for racial prejudice
- Option: D. It indicates magic abilities

6. What type of scenes were considered in the PG rating of *Wicked*?

- Option: A. Romantic scenes
- Option: B. Threatening scenes
- Option: C. Comedy scenes
- Option: D. Action scenes

True-False

7. The BBFC guidelines allow unlimited usage of discriminatory language or conduct.

8. The mistreatment of Elphaba in *Wicked* is described as "emotional and distressing" by the BBFC.

9. Parents prefer content warnings regarding racism and discrimination according to a study by the BBFC in 2021.

10. The content warning for *Wicked* was praised by writer Simon Evans in an interview.

11. Elphaba eventually finds acceptance and redemption in the story of *Wicked*.

12. The ending of *Wicked* is described as wholly reassuring by the BBFC.



Gap-Fill

13. According to the BBFC, discriminatory language or conduct should be clearly _____ of.
14. The disabled woman in a wheelchair in *Wicked* is subject to condescending treatment by _____ individuals.
15. The BBFC study in 2021 revealed that parents favor content warnings regarding racism and discrimination to facilitate _____ viewing choices.
16. Writer Simon Evans criticized the content warning in an interview with _____.
17. Elphaba's green skin in *Wicked* is posited by columnist Stuart Heritage as a powerful allegory for _____ prejudice.
18. The BBFC's decision concerning *Wicked* has elicited _____ responses.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A. Elphaba 2. B. Cynthia Erivo 3. B. Elphaba's green complexion 4. C. The Daily Mail 5. C. It serves as an allegory for racial prejudice 6. B. Threatening scenes

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. disapproved 14. able-bodied 15. informed 16. The Daily Mail 17. racial 18. mixed

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What is the term used to describe the payment received for work or services?



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- Option: Expenditure
Option: Compensation
Option: Cultural
Option: Acerbic
2. What term refers to the act of acquiring something?
Option: Articulate
Option: Discrimination
Option: Provocative
Option: Acquisition
3. What term is used to describe a special anniversary or celebration?
Option: Candidly
Option: Jubilee
Option: Manipulative
Option: Dominate
4. Which term describes something intended to provoke or arouse strong reactions?
Option: Luminaries
Option: Provocative
Option: Poignant
Option: Prevalent
5. Which term refers to something that evokes a keen sense of sadness or regret?
Option: Epitomizes
Option: Ill-conceived
Option: Poignant
Option: Tumultuous
6. What term is used to describe individuals who are inspirational or famous in a particular field?
Option: Esteemed
Option: Captivates
Option: Luminaries
Option: Inaugural
7. Which term means to have power and influence over others?
Option: Condensing
Option: Discrimination
Option: Dominate
Option: Allege
8. What is the term used when someone claims something without providing proof?
Option: Virality



- Option: Epitomizes
- Option: Allege
- Option: Defamation

9. Which term relates to the arts beliefs and customs of a particular society?

- Option: Cultural
- Option: Articulate
- Option: Phenomenon
- Option: Rhetoric

10. What term describes something that attracts and holds attention or interest?

- Option: Tumultuous
- Option: Captivates
- Option: Condensing
- Option: Excruciatingly

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ based on race gender or age is illegal in many countries.
12. The professor is held in _____ regard by his peers for his groundbreaking research.
13. The video quickly went viral due to its _____ on social media platforms.
14. The singer hit an _____ high note during the performance.
15. Obesity is _____ in many developed countries due to poor diet and lack of exercise.
16. She was known for her _____ speeches that could persuade even the toughest audiences.
17. His dedication to his work truly _____ the company's values of excellence and creativity.
18. The couple went through a _____ period in their relationship before deciding to break up.



19. The textbook was filled with complex information but the professor did an excellent job of _____ it for the students.

20. The celebrity sued the magazine for _____ after they published false information about his personal life.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The author shared her experiences in her autobiography not shying away from the difficult parts.
22. The grand opening of the museum marked its exhibition featuring works by local artists.
23. The con artist’s tactics were finally exposed by the authorities.
24. Legal action was taken against the company for its acts of in the hiring process.
25. The comedian was known for his sense of humor that often left audiences in stitches.
26. The politician was accused of spreading about his opponent to gain an advantage in the election.
27. The meme’s on social media platforms led to millions of shares and likes within hours.
28. The artist’s unique style audiences and art enthusiasts from around the world.
29. The sudden appearance of the rare bird in the city park became an overnight .
30. The conference was attended by scientific who shared groundbreaking research and discoveries.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Compensation 2. Acquisition 3. Jubilee 4. Provocative 5. Poignant 6. Luminaries 7. Dominate 8. Allege 9. Cultural 10. Captivates

Gap-Fill: 11. Discrimination 12. esteemed 13. virality 14. excruciatingly 15. prevalent 16. articulate 17. epitomizes 18. tumultuous 19. condensing 20. defamation

Matching sentence: 1. candidly 2. inaugural 3. manipulative 4. discrimination 5. acerbic 6. defamation 7. virality 8. captivates 9. phenomenon 10. luminaries

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL6



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