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## Silver Screens & Canines

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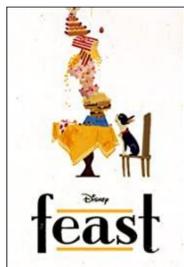
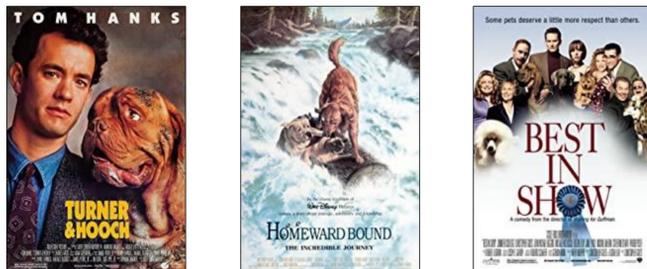
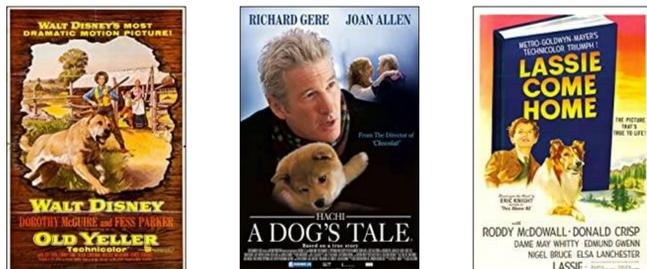
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# Phase 1: Finding Films

- Searched for “dog movies”
- Cross-referenced rank lists, recommendations, and personal experience
- Evaluated each item according to criteria
- Viewed each movie, noting certain themes in each one.



## Criteria:

- Plot is focused on human-canine relationship
- Preferably based/influenced by a true story

# Silver Screens & Canines

## Driving Questions

- What major themes do beloved "dog movies" have in common?
- Why do these themes resonate so deeply with people to the point they make movies solely about our relationship with dogs?

## Phase 2:

### Exploring Our Connection

- Various texts, pieces of art, and other media throughout history document our relationship with dogs. For example, see the excerpt of Lord Bryon's epitaph to his dog below.

*"But the poor Dog, in life the firmest friend,  
the first to welcome, foremost to defend,  
Whose honest heart is still his Master's own,  
unhonour'd falls, unnoticed all his worth*

*"To mark a friend's remains these stones arise,  
I never knew but one-and here he lies."*

-Lord Bryon, on his dog Boatswain  
Oct. 30, 1808

- Dogs have evolved from our enemy to ally, to companion, to friend.
- We developed an **authentic connection**, especially as we get to know our dogs and their personalities.
- We can develop a bond so strong it's comparable to that between a mother and her infant.

## Phase 3: Analysis

### Common themes

- 1 Reluctance/obstacle to form a bond
- 2 Enduring trials and conflict together
- 3 Loss of either person or dog

### Conclusion

- “Dog movies” commonly target basic human emotions and desires.
- Dogs provide some of the purest forms of desirable qualities (i.e. loyalty)
- Film creators can curate their productions to connect with audiences.
- Audiences respond when the content is relatable (i.e. becoming a better person because of an event).



Sources