

Film guide

The Sound of Music

US | 1965 | Cert. U | 168 mins
Director: Robert Wise

The stunning Austrian mountains provide the backdrop for this musical about a free-spirited nun sent to look after the children of rich widower Captain Von Trapp during World War Two. Horrified at how strictly he treats his children Maria soon charms the family, only for them all to be forced to escape when the Nazis arrive in Austria, demanding the Captain's services.



20th Century Fox © (1965) All rights reserved.

You will like this film if you liked

Mary Poppins (1964, U)



Warner Bros © (1964) All rights reserved.

Watch next

The King and I (1956, U)



20th Century Fox © (1956) All rights reserved.

Talk about it (before the film)

What is a musical? What would you expect to find in a musical?

Where is Austria? Can you point to it on a map?

Talk about it (after the film)

- How do the children initially treat Maria? How does she behave towards them during this time?
- Compare Maria's relationship with the children to Captain Von Trapp's relationship with them – what examples can you give of each and how do they differ?
- What changes Captain Von Trapp's mind about Maria? What does he do to show his change in mind?
- How are the Nazis portrayed in the film? What is Captain Von Trapp's reaction to them?
- How important is music and singing to the family's story? Do you think you could make the film without any singing? Would this change the mood of the film and how you felt about events?

Write about it

Bring your ideas together in a review and share it on our Into Film clubs' website. You could include a summary of the story, mention other films that it's similar to, describe what you particularly liked or disliked and give it your star rating.

Extension Activities

During the thunder and lightning Maria sings the song 'My Favourite Things'. Can you remember what her favourite things were? Pick one of your favourite things that make you feel better when you are scared and draw a picture of it.