

Film Title and Release Date: *Gamemaster* (2020)

Film Length: 97 Minutes

Film Genre: Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Natalie S., 8th Grade

Date Reviewed: April 8, 2021

The film, “Gamemaster”, shows the journey of four aspiring board game designers as they navigate the tabletop industry and bring their creations to life. The information is presented by each board game designer in their own room, with their game, and showing you their game, and how they had thought of the idea to come up with the amazingly successful board game. “Gamemaster” is successful in teaching the viewer about the topic by us, the viewer, learning that you don’t just come up with a board game idea straight away, it isn’t that easy. You have to have some sort of inspiration, that’s what creates the board game. You also have to be creative, you have to be artistic. The documentarians did provide a balanced perspective of both pros and cons by one of the board game designers letting us know that in their journey, it took years for their game to be put on the market. He had to make so many revisions, changes, and even completely change the name he wanted of the game, just to please his boss. The pros of board game designing is, if you’re successful, you can make a fortune, as well as base more games off of the game you first created.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found the film on Kanopy by casually browsing.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

The presentation of information kept me interested by each board game designer telling their story on the inspiration, and also them showing you what their game is. You find out that some of the most average people can become so successful.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace of the film was just right, the pace was exactly for my liking.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

“Gamemaster” is appropriate for grade 6 through grade 8.

I rate this film 5 stars: I’m really glad I watched this film; it was awesome!

I rated “Gamemaster” 5 stars because I had learned so much about board game designers that I hadn’t known about already. I never realized that board games originally had a prototype, and that it would have months, even years to make a board game. I also found out that the most average of people would make the most fun and successful games. One of your peers at school would make a board game and become famous, you just don’t know it yet.