Real or Pretend?

Movies and TV are fun to watch! Movies can be cartoons or real people. The movies and cartoons are stories that someone else is telling. Sometimes the stories are about real life and sometimes the stories are pretend. Pretend stories are not real.

The people in the movies and cartoons pretend to be the character they play. Sometimes they are pretending to be someone real or famous. Sometimes they are pretending to be a made-up character.

Sometimes what happens on TV and in movies can really happen! Sometimes, what happens is pretend and can’t really happen. Like when a person can run faster than sound, or fly, or jump off of buildings and doesn’t get hurt. Or, like when a cartoon character doesn’t get hurt, if they are hit by something like a hammer. This is often called fantasy. Fantasy is not real. In real life, a person would get hurt if they tried to fly, or got hit by a hammer.

It is important to remember that in real life, pretend or make-believe people and stories aren’t real. Some things in movies, cartoons, or on TV can happen in real life. Some things that happen in movies, cartoons, or on TV are only pretend.

It helps to think about the cartoon or movie and to try to figure out if it is real or pretend. If it is real, the character exists and the story is real. If it is pretend, the character is make-believe and/or the story is not real. It is fantasy. If a person doesn’t know if something is real or pretend, they can ask a trusted adult. Trying to do things that are fantasy in real life can hurt people or cause problems. It is a good idea to think about what is real and what is pretend and to make good choices that are safe.