

Students critique Hugo

FIVE hundred and twenty six pages in 128 minutes. That is the bare bones of film-maker Martin Scorsese's creative adaptation of the book, 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' to the Academy Award winning movie, 'Hugo'.

Chatham High School students recently viewed 'Hugo' at Fay's Twin Cinema and were asked to critically compare the two creative works and discuss which was better – the book or the movie.

More than 120 students from year seven and year eight attended the special screening on Thursday which was funded by the Priority School Funding Program (PSP).

The book and film is built around a cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man and a hidden message.

Orphan, clock keeper and thief, 12-year-old Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric girl and the owner of a small toy booth in the train station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy.

According to author, Brian Selznick, the book is told in both words and pictures.

"The Invention of Hugo Cabret is not exactly a novel, and it's not quite a picture book, and it's not really a graphic novel, or a flip book, or a movie, but a combination of all these things. Each picture and there are nearly three

hundred pages of pictures, takes up an entire double page spread, and the story moves forward because you turn the pages to see the next moment unfold in front of you."

Film-maker Martin Scorsese embraced the challenge of adapting the book to film, which according to Chatham High School students, Abbie Loretan and Tara Louis, "was good but not as good as the book".

Abbie and Tara, both studied the book with the assistance of their year eight teacher, Mrs Beckett.

Abbie said she was surprised to discover that she enjoyed the book more than the film.

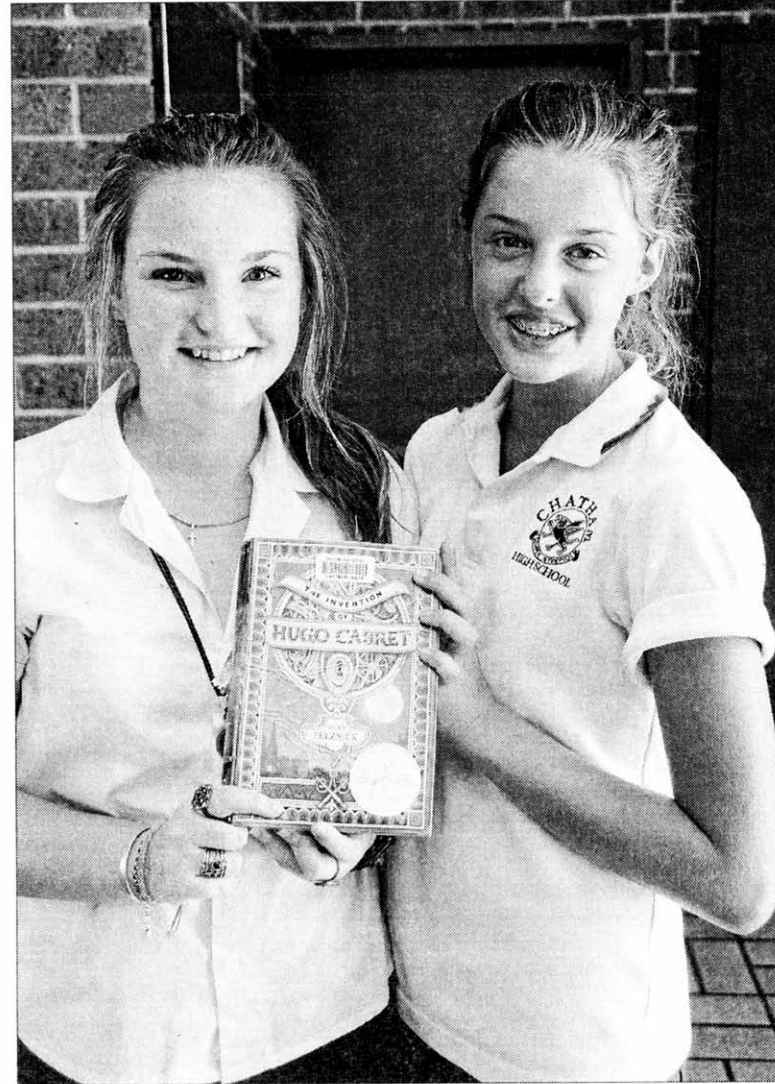
"I don't enjoy reading but I read the book within two days because it was interesting. It is a very graphic book," she said.

"The movie was not as much of a mystery as the book and I actually thought the movie would be better."

Thirteen-year-old Tara said the set details in the film "were very good because the novel is so graphic."

"From the start of the movie it was as same as the book, which was great. There were a few changes throughout the movie but I did like the book version better."

Excursion organiser, Ms Ballard said the PSP initiative is just one of many exciting things that will occur in 2012 to support reading and literacy development at Chatham High School.



More of a mystery: Chatham High students Tara Louis and Abbie Loretan agree the book was better than the movie.