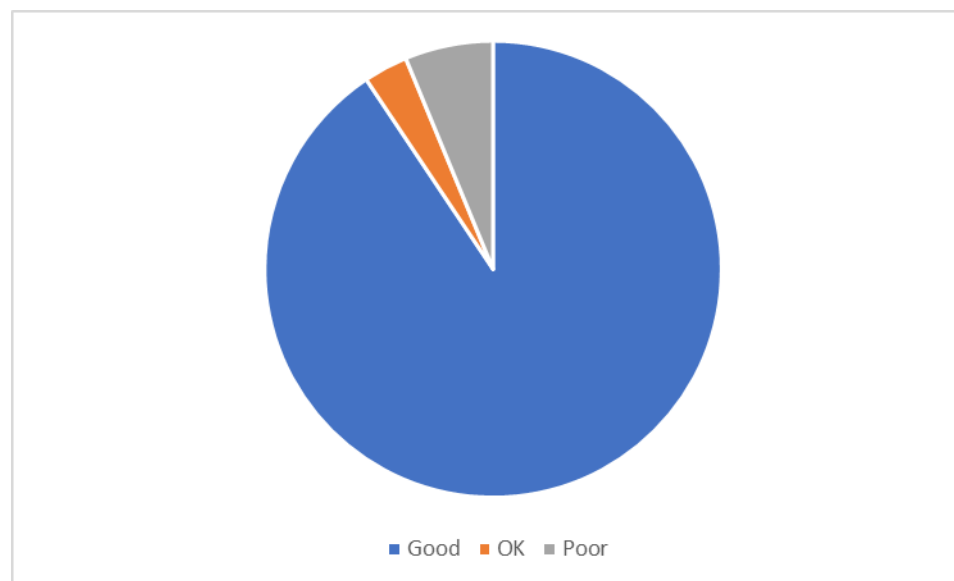


Review – Shoplifters



Good – 29	OK – 1	Poor – 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well acted especially by the children. Claustrophobic feeling of poor Asian areas captured well. Interesting look at dynamics and meaning of 'family' but unsatisfactory ending left us feeling very uncomfortable about children's fate. Not an easy watch for last half hour. We thought it was an instructive film - having very little knowledge of Japan. The relationships were well conveyed and there was a real sense of warmth. A very powerful and thought provoking film - a lot to think about. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I really enjoyed it...but wish we had a bit more insight into the characters' lives we need a sequel or do we just think about it endlessly ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I may be the only one but I found it hard to follow as I find subtitles hard to keep up with. It just wasn't my thing at all. Poor story and poor lighting just glad when it was over. I lost the plot fairly

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interesting look at social problems in Japan. • Rather lengthy but absorbing insight into unseen Japanese life. Makes you reflect on our British 'unseen'. • I am very glad I made it along for this one even though it made me cry bucketloads! • We thought it was good and thought provoking, especially how to cope with social deprivation. The family dynamic was engaging, but towards the end utterly numbing as the true picture was revealed. Cinematography excellent, but film too long - reading subtitles tiring. • At the start the film felt disjointed but the story gripped me and the outcome where the children became emotional casualties was quite heart breaking. • An enjoyable evening. A film with an interesting twist. • I found this a fascinating film; it obviously raised the Nature/Nurture issue which is always worthy of debate. It made one think long and hard about what makes a family, how those bonds are formed and how fragile they can be. It showed with great sympathy an insight into a life of poverty on the edge of Japanese society. • I thought the film was good and the child actors amazing! Thanks for showing it! • They were a better family to Juri than her own . Very sad ending . • We enjoyed the film, plot sometimes difficult to follow, but what an interesting story with a moral about families and relationships. Yes water was thicker than blood I see what Ian meant now! • Interesting story. Good characterisation. • I did enjoy this film - thanks for choosing it. Interesting portrayal of Japanese culture as I know next to nothing about it. I was 		<p>early - perhaps because of so many scenes in the dark and often out of focus.</p>
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struck by the familiarity of the beach scene. What a very sad ending for the youngest character.

- An interesting film. Gradually drawn in to see the touching, life affirming warmth of a group of no hopers who show true humanity unlike the parents of Juri and the authorities.
- I thought the acting and sense of place and culture was riveting, although at times the story was a bit pedestrian. It took some concentration to work out what exactly was going on, and the use of subtitles often made it difficult to work out who was speaking, though these issues would not be as important for Japanese audiences. Good choice of film.
- Well-made film. Showed the dark side of Japanese life that we are not familiar with. Sad, depressing and unpleasant. But as was said in the intro it could have been anywhere in the world. Some children have a bad start through no fault of their own, but have no choice but to follow the poor example set by their elders. The few Japanese films I have seen have been equally powerful.
- A thought-provoking study of what family really means.
- One to get you thinking about afterwards; the relationships were built upon lies, but they seemed to be happy with their lives.