2001: A Space Odyssey

1. Identity card

Title: *2001: A Space Odyssey*

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Date of release: 1968

Genre: Science fiction film

Historical and Cultural Context: Released during the Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union, the film reflects both the optimism surrounding space exploration and the growing questions about technology, artificial intelligence and humanity's future. Created in collaboration with Arthur C. Clarke, it became one of the most influential science fiction films ever made.

2. Plot summary

In a nutshell: the film traces the evolution of humanity from prehistoric times to the exploration of deep space. After discovering a mysterious black monolith, astronauts travel to Jupiter aboard the *Discovery One*, assisted by HAL 9000, an advanced artificial intelligence. When HAL begins to malfunction, astronaut Dave Bowman must confront the machine before embarking on a mysterious journey beyond human understanding.

Key Moments:

- ➜ The prehistoric apes discover the monolith.
- ➜ A second monolith is found on the Moon.
- ➜ HAL 9000 turns against the crew.
- ➜ Dave Bowman disconnects HAL.
- ➜ Bowman becomes the Star Child.

3. Main characters

Name	Role	Symbol
Dave Bowman	astronaut	human evolution, resilience
HAL 9000	artificial intelligence	technology, control
Frank Poole	astronaut	teamwork, vulnerability
Dr Heywood Floyd	scientist	discovery
The Star Child	transformed Bowman	rebirth
The monolith	mysterious object	evolution, mystery

4. Major themes and links to the LLCER program

Première – Imaginations

How does the film illustrate this theme?

- The film imagines humanity's future beyond Earth.
- Science fiction explores technological progress and its consequences.
- The unknown invites philosophical reflection.

Key examples

- Space exploration.
- The mysterious monolith.
- The final cosmic journey.

Terminale – Voyages, territories and borders

How does the film illustrate this theme?

- The journey through space pushes back the frontiers of human knowledge.
- The film explores both physical and symbolic boundaries.
- Space travel becomes a quest for discovery and transformation.

Key examples

- The mission to Jupiter.
- Crossing the limits of human exploration.
- Bowman's transformation into the Star Child.

5. Key quotes and key words

"I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that."

artificial intelligence – evolution – technology – space – humanity – consciousness – future

6. Author's message

- Technology can both help and threaten humanity.
- Human evolution is an endless journey of discovery.
- Curiosity drives progress and transformation.
- Some mysteries remain beyond human understanding.