VIDEO TASK: BLUE VELVET

- Pre-watch task: in pairs or threesomes tell each other about your all-time favourite movie, giving reasons why.
  What was special about it? Summarise the plot.
  Did you learn anything from it or was it just pure entertainment?

1. When Mark Kermode first saw Blue Velvet...
   a) it really annoyed him (it got under my skin)
   b) it horrified him
   c) it put him off seeing other similar films

2. Blue Velvet is a special film for Mark Kermode because...
   a) of the acting in it
   b) of what it meant to him as a reviewer (it's a very important film for me as a new film critic)
   c) it was a turning point in his career

3. True or false: When the film was released he made unpleasant and scornful comments about it.
   (TRUE: I wrote a snarky and snidey review – SNARKY = sarcastic + nasty; snide(y) = malicious, mean)

4. True or false: Some time after he saw the film some friends of Mark’s agreed that they had also disliked the movie.
   (FALSE: You know, you misjudged it, it just got under your skin)

5. After seeing Blue Velvet again, he realised that what really upset and confused him about it was...
   a) just the shocking way it dealt with sex (= scabrous)
   b) the dreamy sort of dialogue in it (it's not just that the dialogue is incredibly scabrous, strange, and dreamy…)
   c) the mysterious feeling surrounding it (it's the fact that the film has an atmosphere that is genuinely eerie, uncanny, out of this world = strange, mysterious, and frightening – this is what really freaked him out about the film)

6. True or false: In Blue Velvet we can see someone lip-syncing to an Elvis Presley song.
   (FALSE: to a Roy Orbison song)

7. Mark Kermode advises us against...
   a) judging films on instinct (it taught me that when a film gets under your skin and provokes a visceral reaction, you have to be very careful about assessing it)
   b) misjudging films on account of the content in them
   c) assessing films on the mood they create

8. True or false: When Mark Kermode first saw Blue Velvet, he left the cinema.
   (TRUE: When I first saw it I was young and foolish. And now the idea of walking out of that film seems completely stupid. But I still know why it happened...I walked out of Blue Velvet 'cos it was a really good film)