

Good Series to Watch If You're New to Anime

By Alex Taft

In recent years, anime has become increasingly mainstream, which I'm extremely happy to see as someone who has been watching anime for most of my life. What used to be this niche Japanese style of show and animation has become something that's more and more openly talked about, with more and more people expressing interest in anime every day. While many who are just getting into anime have already seen or are in the process of watching some of anime's giants like Naruto and Dragon Ball, as well as some other series like Demon Slayer and Attack on Titan that are becoming more mainstream, there is still a plethora of anime waiting to be watched. So, if you're new to anime and want some series recommendations, here's a couple of popular and semi-popular series of varying genres to give you a helping hand in your journey.



Higurashi When They Cry - Higurashi is my personal favorite anime. It's a psychological horror/mystery series with a lot of ups and downs, an extremely engaging storyline, and also a lot of ... memorable moments. I can't talk too much about Higurashi without giving away a ton of spoilers, but just know that it's extremely engaging and extremely good. It can get pretty gory, but it's far more than just some gory series that relies on shock factor; it tells a really good story and develops the characters well. You may have heard the series name "Higurashi" dropped before, and it was probably in reference to something known as "the fingernail scene". If you haven't seen the fingernail scene before, and want to see what it is ... be warned. You probably won't find the original uncensored version on Youtube, but if you do find the uncensored version, you will never look at someone getting their nails done the same ever again. So of course, if you plan on watching Higurashi, just be prepared for gore. Also, make sure that when you start watching, you're watching the version from 2006, which may appear under the title "When They Cry", as the later 2020 and 2021 Higurashis are actually seasons 4 and 5, not just re-animations of the original.



Kaguya Sama: Love Is War - Love Is War is a good romantic comedy anime that has some genuinely funny moments. The series is centered around the idea that in relationships, the person who initially asks another person out ends up getting dominated in the relationship. It's some weird and convoluted logic, but that's the point, and it allows for a really entertaining show where it's two super smart main characters, Miyuki Shirogane and Kaguya Shinomiya, very obviously in love with each other creating master plans to make the other person accidentally admit that they love the other. To me personally, most romantic comedy anime ends up being super cliché and not really that funny or entertaining to watch, but Love Is War is definitely an exception. I highly recommend giving it a chance; it can get a little bit cheesy at times, but it's nonetheless a good watch.



Bleach - Bleach is an absolute classic, and easily the most popular anime on this list of recommendations. You may have very well already seen this anime or might even be in the process of watching it, even as someone who's new to the genre. But if you aren't watching it right now, I recommend getting started as soon as possible. It's an action/adventure anime like Naruto and Dragon Ball, that follows the main character named Ichigo, who discovers that he's a being called a "Soul Reaper", on a journey of fighting lost souls known as "Hollows". There's of course a lot more to the anime than just that, and there are definitely more conflicts than just fighting Hollows, but obviously I don't want to spoil anything that you won't immediately figure out. It's an overall pretty good anime and there's a lot of episodes to it, so there's a lot to enjoy! My only warning is that there are A LOT of filler episodes that can sometimes just be really cringey in Bleach, so don't feel pressured to watch all of the filler episodes, you'll probably be fine just skipping them if you really want to.



Your Lie in April - Your Lie in April is a more serious romance/drama anime that will have you balling your eyes out by the end of the series. It follows the main character named Kousei Arime, who is amazing at playing the piano, but had stopped playing it since his mother died of an illness, sending him into an extreme depression that caused him to never touch the piano again because it made him think of his mother; he would literally stop hearing his own playing because of how much dread he'd feel while playing. In the series, he starts breaking out of his shell, overcoming his depression, and playing the piano again with the help of a girl he meets named Kaori. That's the most I can say about the plot, but just know that it gets very, EXTREMELY sad by the end of the series. It's an extremely beautiful anime and has some really good music in it, as the idea of performing and playing musical instruments is an integral part of the story. Your Lie in April has an amazing story and some pretty emotional moments. My advice is to just watch it.

This should hopefully be enough varying series to help you find more shows that you like in the world of anime. Now, go off and watch!