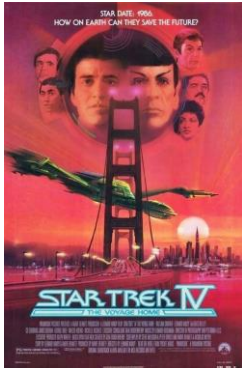


## Short Review: “Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home” (1986) by Dr. John L. Flynn



**Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home** (1986). Paramount Pictures, color, 119 min. Director: Leonard Nimoy. Writers: Gene Roddenberry, Leonard Nimoy, etc. Producer: Harve Bennett. Cast: William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, DeForest Kelley, and Catherine Hicks. Captain Kirk (Shatner) and the Enterprise crew determine that a message they pickup in outer space is in the language of humpback whales. To save the earth from destruction by these creatures, therefore, they go back in time to late 20<sup>th</sup> century San Francisco to rescue some humpback whales to repopulate the 23<sup>rd</sup> century seas of Earth. On the way, they meet a charming marine biologist (Hicks), who has a thing for Kirk and does not quite know what to make of Spock (Nimoy). The comedy between the 20<sup>th</sup> century biologist, Kirk and Spock gives this film a human dimension that most “Star Trek” films lack. Also, we can relate to the whales’ and our own ecological problems easier than to yet another threat to Earth from some alien menace. This is one of the best of the early films in the “Trek” franchise.

Copyright 2012 by John L. Flynn, Ph.D.