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21世纪

奥斯卡最佳影片赏析

The Appreciation of Best Pictures of Oscar in the 21st Century

■ 马 玉 侯小珍 编著



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前言

原版英文电影融文本字幕、语言、图像等多种信息传播介质于一体,具有集自然与社会、文化与历史、科学与艺术、宗教与道德、理想与现实,语言、音乐、美术等艺术形式为一体的特点。观看原版英文电影符合培养大学生人文素养和跨文化交际能力的时代要求,符合提高大学生听说读写译等英语综合应用能力的教学要求。目前国内英文影视欣赏方面的书籍不多,而奥斯卡最佳影片欣赏方面的更少。鉴于这种情况,编者编写了《21 世纪奥斯卡最佳影片赏析》这本体现新世纪时代特色的集英语视听说、读写译于一身的多功能英语教材。

本书共收录八部 21 世纪奥斯卡最佳影片。每部影片内容包括影片简介——简介影片出品公司、上映年代、片长、等级、种类、导演、编剧、主要人物及获奖等情况;情节概要——概括影片的主要情节内容;视听说片段——观赏、补充经典对白并提出问题;经典对白翻译题——欣赏经典对白、提高翻译水平;小组讨论题——从整部影片的角度提出了综合思考讨论题;主题写作题——围绕影片主题发展学生的写作水平;相关文化背景介绍——介绍导演、编剧(或原著作者)、主要演员的生平及其影视生涯;影片评论欣赏——力求客观的反映影片的成功及不足之处,培养学生的阅读理解能力。

其中,马玉编著第一至第四单元,侯小珍编著第五至第八单元。

本书旨在通过欣赏 21 世纪奥斯卡最佳影片作品,感受真实的西方文化氛围,掌握地道的英语表达方式,培养学生跨文化交际能力和英文影视欣赏能力;并通过一系列练习题的设计,提高学生的英语听说读写译等综合水平。

本书可作为高校高年级英语视听说课程教材使用,也可供广大具有相当水平的英语电影爱好者使用。

由于本人水平有限,本书难免有缺陷和不足,诚望各位专家和读者不吝指教。

马 玉 侯小珍

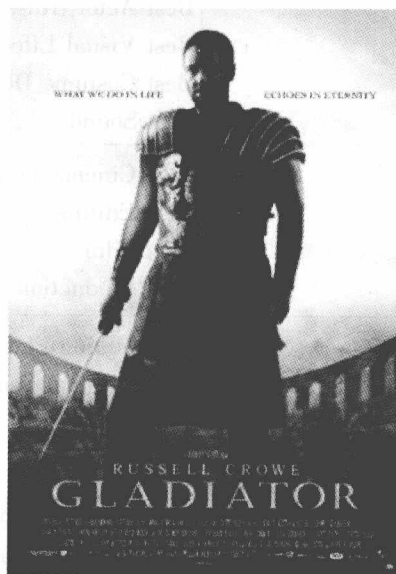
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Unit 1 Gladiator 角斗士



1.1 Introduction

Released by: Touchstone Pictures (2000)

Director: Ridley Scott

Writer: David Franzoni (story and screenplay)

Genre: Action, Drama

MPAA Rating: R for intense graphic combat

Runtime: 154 mins.

Cast: Russell Crowe as Maximus Decimus Meridius

Joaquin Phoenix as Commodus

Richard Harris as Marcus Aurelius

Connie Nielsen as Lucilla

Oliver Reed as Antonius Proximo

Derek Jacobi as Senator Gracchus

Djimon Hounsou as Juba

David Schofield as Senator Falco

David Hemmings as Cassius

Awards:

Awards	Title
Academy Awards	Best picture Best Actor (Russell Crowe) Best Visual Effects Best Costume Design Best Sound
BAFTA Awards	Best Cinematography Best Editing Best Film Best Production Design
Golden Globe Awards	Best Motion Picture – Drama Best Original Score – Motion Picture

1.2 Plot Summary

In AD 180, General Maximus Decimus Meridius leads the Roman army to a decisive victory against Germanic tribes at Vindobona, ending a long war on the Roman frontier and earning the esteem of the elderly Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Though he has a son named Commodus, the dying emperor wishes to grant temporary leadership to Maximus, hoping eventually to return power to the Roman Senate. When his father tells him of the decision, Commodus, already bitter that Marcus favors Maximus over him, murders his father in a fit of rage and claims the throne.

Maximus realizes the truth about Marcus' death, but is betrayed by his friend General Quintus, who reluctantly instructs the Praetorian guards to carry out Commodus' order to execute Maximus and his wife and son. Maximus manages to escape, and races home only to find he was too late to save his family. After burying them, Maximus is found unconscious by slave traders and taken to Zucchabar, a Roman city in North Africa. There, he is bought by Proximo, and forced to fight for his life as a gladiator in arena tournaments. During this time, he befriends gladiators Juba and Hagen. Juba tells Maximus to have faith that he will be reunited with his family in the afterlife.

Maximus proves a fierce gladiator; with nothing left to live for, he is fearless in the arena. He ultimately reaches the prestigious Roman Colosseum where his group is contracted to fight

in a tribute to the Battle of Carthage. Concealing his identity with a helmet, he skillfully leads a band of gladiators to defeat an opposing chariot and archer force, earning the crowd's praise. Forced to reveal himself to a stunned Commodus in the arena afterward, the crowd votes to spare his life, and Commodus appeases them by doing so. Maximus later wins against the undefeated gladiator Tigris, as well as tigers released into the arena, yet refuses to obey Commodus' command to perform the coup de grace. As a result, he is declared "Maximus the Merciful" by the crowd, increasing his popularity and further frustrating Commodus, who cannot kill Maximus without making him a martyr.

Following the fight, Maximus is told by his former servant Cicero that his army is still loyal to him. Maximus then conspires with Commodus' sister Lucilla and the senator Gracchus to rejoin with his army and topple Commodus by force. Commodus, however, suspects his sister of betrayal and forces her to reveal the plot using veiled threats against her young son Lucius. During Maximus' attempted escape, Commodus' guards attack Proximo's gladiator school, killing Hagen and Proximo. Juba and the survivors are imprisoned, but Maximus makes it to the city walls, where he is captured after a failed attempt to save Cicero.

Desperate to get Maximus out of the way and prove his own greatness, Commodus arranges a duel with him in the arena. Unknown to the crowd, Commodus stabs a restrained Maximus with a stiletto to gain advantage over him before they enter the arena. During the fight, Maximus manages to disarm Commodus, while Quintus disobeys the emperor's demand for his sword and commands his soldiers to do the same. Commodus then produces the hidden stiletto, but Maximus plunges the blade into Commodus' throat, killing him.

With his dying words, Maximus carries out Marcus Aurelius' wishes, calling for Gracchus to be reinstated, the slaves to be freed, and power to be restored to the Senate. As he dies, Maximus reunites with his family in the afterlife. Lucilla then reiterates his wishes and honors his memory. Some time later, Juba buries Maximus' two small figurines of his wife and son in the ground where his friend Maximus died, promising to see him in the afterlife, "but not yet".

1.3 Watching, Listening and Speaking

Direction: Watch the following movie clips, fill in the missing words and answer the following questions.

1.3.1 The Fight Against the Barbarians

Maximus: At my signal, unleash hell.

Quintus: Load the catapults. Infantry form up for advance. Archers ready.

Chief Archer: Archers!

Centurion: Knock!

Archer: Knock!

Maximus: Fratres! Three weeks from now, (1) . Imagine where you will be, and it will be so. Hold the line! Stay with me! If you find yourself alone riding in green fields with the sun on your face, do not be troubled. For you are in Elysium, and you're already dead! Brothers, what we do in life (2) .

[Maximus gives the signal to unleash hell.]

Centurion: Archers, ignite!

Centurion: Archers, draw!

Onager Centurion: Loose!

[Maximus leads the thundering cavalry down through the trees. Soon the brutal battle is over. At the top of the hill, Caesar Marcus Aurelius slowly leans his head back in relief of the victory.]

[Inside a wagon]

Commodus: Do you think he's really dying?

Lucilla: He's been dying for ten years.

Commodus: If he weren't really dying, (3) .

Lucilla: Maybe he just misses us.

Commodus: And the senators? He wouldn't have summoned them if--

Lucilla: Peace, Commodus. After two weeks on the road, (4) is hurting my head.

Commodus: He's made his decision. He's going to announce it. He will name me. The first thing I shall do when...is honor him with games worthy of His Majesty.

Lucilla: For now, the first thing I shall do is have a hot bath.

[Emperor Marcus walks to Maximus]

Marcus: You have proved your valor yet again, Maximus. Let us hope for the last time.

Maximus: There's no one left to fight, sire.

Marcus: There is always someone left to fight. How can I reward Rome's greatest general?

Maximus: (5) .

Marcus: Ah. Home.

[Marcus and Maximus walk through the debris of the battle, amidst the soldiers who are cheering as they pass.]

Maximus: They honor you, Caesar.

Marcus: It's for you, Maximus. They honor you.

[Commodus arrives.]

Commodus: Have I missed it? Have I missed the battle?

Marcus: You have missed the war.

Commodus: Father, congratulations. I shall sacrifice a hundred bulls to (6).

Marcus: Save the bulls. Honor Maximus. He won the battle.

Commodus: General.

Maximus: Highness.

Commodus: Rome salutes you, and I embrace you as a brother. It has been too long, my old friend.

Maximus: Highness.

Commodus: Here, Father. Take my arm.

Marcus: (7).

Marcus: *[to Maximus]* So much for the glory of Rome.

[In a tent]

Commodus: *[to approaching Maximus]* Here he is.

Maximus: Highness.

Commodus: Senator Gaius, Senator Falco. (8) Gaius. He'll pour a honeyed potion in your ear, and you'll wake up one day and all you'll say is, " Republic, republic, republic."

Gaius: Well, why not? Rome was founded as a republic.

Commodus: Yes, and in a republic the senate has the power. But Senator Gaius isn't influenced by that, of course.

Falco: (9), General? Emperor or Senate?

Maximus: A soldier has the advantage of being able to look his enemy in the eye, Senator.

Gaius: Well, with an army behind you, you could be extremely political.

Commodus: I warned you, now I shall save you. Senators.

Commodus: *[to Maximus]* I'm going to need good men like you.

Maximus: How may I be of service, Highness?

Commodus: You're a man who knows what it is to command. You give your orders, the orders are obeyed and the battle is won. But these senators scheme and squabble and (10). Maximus, we must save Rome from the politicians, my friend. (11) when the time comes?

Maximus: Highness, when your father releases me, I intend to return home.

Commodus: Home? Well, no one's earned it more. Don't get too comfortable. I may call on you before long. Lucilla's here. Did you know? She's not forgotten you. And now

you're the great man.

Marcus: [*to Lucilla*] If only you had been born a man. (12)

Lucilla: Father.

Marcus: You would have been strong, I wonder. Would you have been just?

Lucilla: I would have been what you taught me to be.

Marcus: Oh. How was your journey?

Lucilla: Long. Uncomfortable. Why have I come?

Marcus: (13)

Lucilla: Of course.

Marcus: He loves you. He always has. And he will need you now, more than ever. Enough of politics. Let us pretend that you are a loving daughter and I am a good father.

Lucilla: This is a pleasant fiction, isn't it?

Questions on Comprehension:

- What do you think of the fight depicted at the beginning of the movie?
- What does Maximus want as a reward for his victory?
- How do you describe the relationship between Marcus and Lucilla, his daughter?
- What do you know about Maximus and Commodus from this part?

1.3.2 The Changing of Power

Maximus: You sent for me, Caesar? ...Caesar?

Marcus: Tell me again, Maximus. Why are we here?

Maximus: For the glory of the empire, sire.

Marcus: Ah, yes, I remember. Do you see that map, Maximus? That is the world which I created. For 25 years, I have conquered, spilt blood, (1). Since I became Caesar, I have known four years without war. 4 years of peace in 20. And for what? I brought the sword. Nothing more.

Maximus: Caesar, your life...

Marcus: Please. Please don't call me that. Come. Please. Come sit. Let us talk together now, very simply, as men. Maximus, talk.

Maximus: 5,000 of my men are out there in the freezing mud. 3,000 of them are bloodied and cleaved. 2,000 will never leave this place. I will not believe that (2).

Marcus: And what would you believe?

Maximus: They fought for you and for Rome.

Marcus: And what is Rome? Maximus?

Maximus: I've seen much of the rest of the world. It is brutal and cruel and dark.

(3) _____.

Marcus: Yet you have never been there. You have not seen what it has become. I am dying, Maximus. When a man sees his end, he wants to know _____ (4) _____. How will the world speak my name in years to come? Will I be known as the philosopher? The warrior? The tyrant? Or will I be the emperor _____ (5) ____? There was once a dream that was Rome. You could only whisper it. Anything more than a whisper and it would vanish. It was so fragile. And I fear that it will not survive the winter. Maximus let us whisper now. Together, you and I. You have a son. Tell me about your home.

Maximus: My house is in the hills above Trujillo. A very simple place. Pink stones that warm in the sun. A kitchen garden that _____ (6) _____, jasmine in the evening. Through the gate is a giant poplar. Figs, apples, pears. The soil, Marcus, black. Black like my wife's hair. Grapes on the south slopes, olives on the north. Wild ponies play near my house. They tease my son. He wants to be one of them.

Marcus: When was the last time you were home?

Maximus: 2 years, 264 days and this morning.

Marcus: I envy you, Maximus. It's a good home. Worth fighting for. _____ (7) _____ that I ask of you before you go home.

Maximus: What would you have me do, Caesar?

Marcus: I want you to become the protector of Rome after I die. I will empower you, to one end alone, to give power back to the people of Rome and _____ (8) _____ that has crippled it. Will you accept this great honor that I have offered you?

Maximus: _____ (9) _____, no.

Marcus: That is why it must be you.

Maximus: But surely a prefect, a senator, somebody who knows the city, who understands her politics.

Marcus: But you have not been corrupted by her politics.

Maximus: And Commodus?

Marcus: Commodus is not a moral man. You have known that since you were young. Commodus cannot rule. He must not rule. _____ (10) _____. Commodus will accept my decision. He knows that you command the loyalty of the army.

Maximus: I need some time, sire.

Marcus: Yes. By sunset, I hope, you will have agreed. Now embrace me as my son. And bring an old man another blanket.

[Marcus' tent]

Marcus: Are you ready to do your duty for Rome?

Commodus: Yes, father.

Marcus: You will not be emperor.

Commodus: Which wiser, older man is _____ (11) _____?

Marcus: My powers will pass to Maximus to hold in trust until the Senate is ready to rule once more. Rome is to be a republic again.

Commodus: Maximus?

Marcus: Yes. ...My decision disappoints you?

Commodus: You wrote to me once, listing the four chief virtues. _____ (12) _____. As I read the list, I knew I had none of them. But I have other virtues, Father. Ambition, that can be a virtue when it drives us to excel; resourcefulness; courage, perhaps not on the battlefield, but there are many forms of courage; devotion—to my family and to you. But none of my virtues were on your list. Even then it was as if you didn't want me for your son.

Marcus: Oh, Commodus. You go too far.

Commodus: I search the faces of the gods for ways to please you, to make you proud. One kind word, one full hug where you pressed me to your chest and held me tight, would have been like the sun on my heart for a thousand years. What is it in me you hate so much? All I've ever wanted was to _____ (13) _____, Caesar. Father.

Marcus: Commodus. _____ (14) _____.

Marcus: Come.

[Marcus stretches his arms out to Commodus, seeking forgiveness.]

Commodus: Father, I would butcher the whole world if you would only love me!

[Commodus presses his father tightly against his body, as Marcus struggles to be free, but fails.]

Questions on Comprehension:

- Why does Marcus decide to make Maximus his successor after he dies?
- What is Maximus immediate reaction to Marcus' decision?
- Macus doesn't want his own son Commodus to be the ruler of Rome. Why?
- What is Commosus response to his father's decision?

1.3.3 From Slave to Gladiator

Proximo: *[to the slaves]* I am Proximo. I shall be closer to you for the next few days which will be the last of your miserable lives than that bitch of a mother that brought you screaming into this world. I did not pay good money for you for your company. I paid it so that _____ (1) _____. And as your mother was there at your beginning, so I shall be there at your end. And when you die, and die you shall, your transition shall be to the sound of Gladiators, I salute you.

[At the arena]

Proximo: Some of you are thinking you won't fight, and some that you can't fight. They all say that until they're out there. Listen. Thrust this into another man's flesh. They will applaud and love you for that. And you...you may begin to love them for that. _____ (2)

_____. Sadly, we cannot choose how, but we can decide how we meet that end in order that we are remembered as men.

[In the colosseum]

Gaius: Games. 150 days of games.

Gracchus: He's cleverer than I thought.

Gaius: Clever? The whole of Rome would be laughing at him if they weren't so afraid of his Praetorians.

Gracchus: Fear and wonder, a powerful combination.

Gaius: You really think the people are going to be seduced by that?

Gracchus: I think he knows what Rome is. Rome is the mob. Conjure magic for them, and they'll be distracted. _____ (3), and still they'll roar. The beating heart of Rome is not the marble of the Senate. It's the sand of the Colosseum. He'll bring them death and they will love him for it.

[At Proximo's quarters]

Maximus: You sent for me?

Proximo: Yes, I did. You're good, Spaniard, but you're not that good. You could be magnificent.

Maximus: I'm required to kill, so I kill. That is enough.

Proximo: That's enough for the provinces, but not for Rome. The young emperor has arranged a series of spectacles to commemorate his father Marcus Aurelius. I find that amusing since it was Marcus Aurelius, the wise, the all-knowing Marcus Aurelius that _____ (4). So finally, after five years of scratching a living in flea-infested villages we're finally going back to where we belong---the Colosseum. Oh, you should see the Colosseum, Spaniard. 50,000 Romans watching every movement of your sword, willing you to make that killer blow. The silence before you strike and the noise afterwards, it rises, it rises up like---like---like a storm _____ (5).

Maximus: You were a gladiator?

Proximo: Yes, I was.

Maximus: You won your freedom?

Proximo: A long time ago, the emperor presented me with a rudius. It's just a wooden sword, the symbol of your freedom. _____ (6), and I was free.

Maximus: You knew Marcus Aurelius?

Proximo: I did not say I knew him. I said he touched me on the shoulder once.

Maximus: You asked me what I want. I, too, want to stand in front of the emperor as you did.

Proximo: Then listen to me. Learn from me. I wasn't the best because I killed quickly. I was the best because the crowd loved me. (7) .

Maximus: I will win the crowd. I will give them something they've never seen before.

Proximo: So, Spaniard, we shall go to Rome together and have bloody adventures and the great whore will suckle us until we are fat and happy and can suckle no more. And then when enough men have died perhaps you will have your freedom. Here. Use this. *[Giving him a body shield of armour]*

[After Maximus and his men successfully attack and kill the Legionnaires in the colosseum]

Commodus: My history's a little hazy, Cassius, but shouldn't the barbarians lose the battle of Carthage?

Cassius: Yes, sire. Forgive me, sire.

Commodus: No, (8) . Who is he?

Cassius: They call him the Spaniard, sire.

Commodus: I think I'll meet him.

Cassius: Yes, sire.

Praetorian: Drop your weapons. *[to Maximus]* Gladiator, the emperor has asked for you.

Maximus: I am at the emperor's service.

Commodus: Rise. Rise. (9) , Spaniard. I don't think there's ever been a gladiator to match you. As for this young man, he insists you are Hector reborn. Or was it Hercules? Why doesn't the hero reveal himself and tell us all your real name? You do have a name?

Maximus: My name is Gladiator.

Commodus: How dare you show your back to me? Slave! You will remove your helmet and tell me your name.

Maximus: My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius, commander of the armies of the north, general of the Felix Legions, loyal servant to the true emperor Marcus Aurelius, father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife, and (10) , in this life or the next.

Quintus: Arms!

Crowd: Live! Live! Live! Live!

Commodus: Shhh!