

Slumdog Millionaire**Reading Activity**

British director Danny Boyle's latest film *Slumdog Millionaire* is an acclaimed feelgood film set in the slums of Mumbai, India. *Slumdog Millionaire* tells the rags-to-riches story of an 18-year-old orphan called Jamal who works as a tea boy in a call centre.

Jamal Malik is a contestant on the Indian version of the popular TV show *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire*. He is one question away from winning a 20 million rupee fortune, but the jealous host suspects him of cheating and calls in the police. They find it hard to believe that a poor, uneducated boy from the slums could know the answers to such difficult questions. Jamal is arrested and taken to the police station to be interrogated. As the story of Jamal's life unfolds through flashbacks, we learn about his background and discover how he came to know the answers.

At the heart of the film there is also a touching love story between Jamal and Latika, the woman he has loved since childhood and who he is now desperately searching for.

The screenplay for *Slumdog Millionaire* was written by Simon Beaufoy who adapted it from the novel *Q & A*, by Indian author Vikas Swarup. Simon Beaufoy also wrote the script for the popular and very successful British comedy film *The Full Monty*.

Slumdog Millionaire premiered in the UK and Mumbai in January 2009. Although the film was made on a shoestring budget of £10 million, ticket sales for the film have been remarkable. According to some estimates, the film made over £100 million worldwide in the run up to the 2009 American Academy Awards. The film was nominated for 10 Academy Awards in total and picked up eight Oscars on the night, including Best Film and Best Director.



Worksheet

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Use the **Reading Text** to find the answers to these questions.

Questions:

- 1) Which novel is *Slumdog Millionaire* based on?
- 2) Where does the story take place?
- 3) How much did it cost to make?
- 4) Who directed *Slumdog Millionaire*?
- 5) At the start of the film, what is *Jamal Malik's* job?
- 6) How many Oscars did *Slumdog Millionaire* win?
- 7) True or false? Simon Beaufoy directed *The Full Monty*.
- 8) True or false? *Slumdog Millionaire* is a big-budget film.
- 9) True or false? *Slumdog Millionaire* went straight to video.
- 10) True or false? *Slumdog Millionaire* is a Bollywood film.