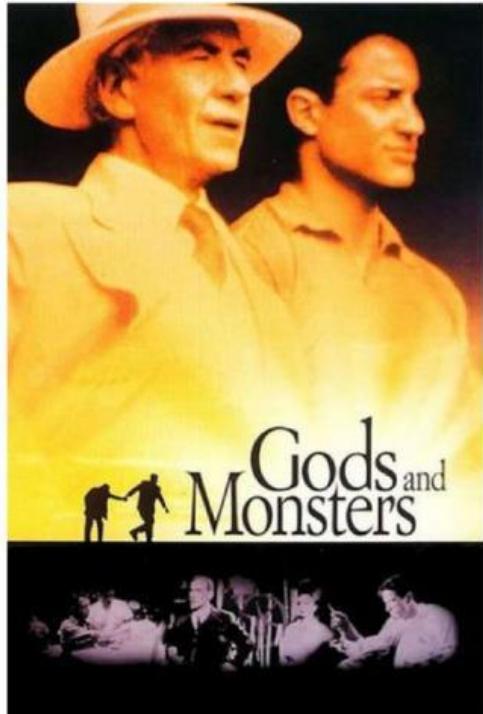


Name:

Read each excerpt and choose the sentence (A-K) that best matches each of them. There are THREE sentences that you DO NOT need.



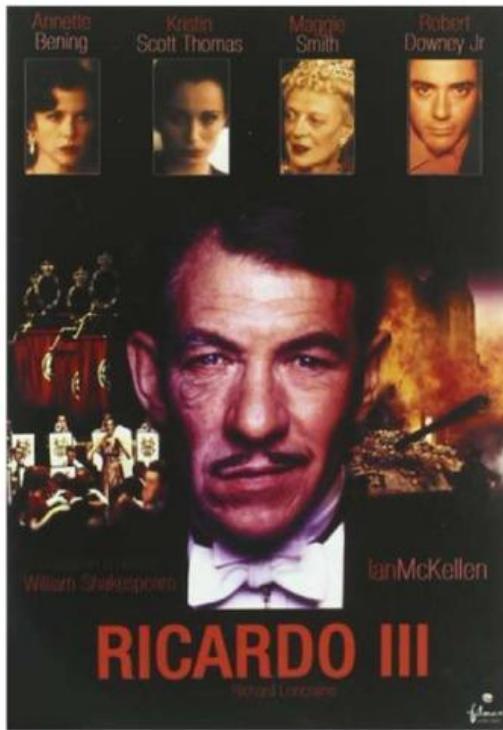
1. GODS AND MONSTERS (1998)

McKellen gives the performance of his career as "Frankenstein" director James Whale, seen in the last days before his tragic suicide in 1957. An openly gay man in a time when most homosexuals were still locked behind the closet door, Whale lives a life of luxury, still feisty despite a series of strokes that have left him debilitated. Into his life comes a handsome young gardener (Brendan Fraser) who reignites his desires, much to the dismay of his disapproving housekeeper (Lynn Redgrave). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for his adapted screenplay, which uses flashbacks to weave together Whale's past and present (including a recreation of the making of his "Bride of Frankenstein"). McKellen earned raves for his deeply affecting performance as a dying man grasping for one last bit of love before the curtain falls. He earned an Oscar bid as Best Actor, losing to Roberto Benigni ("Life is Beautiful").

2. THE LORD OF THE RINGS TRILOGY (2001, 2002, 2003)

When McKellen bellowed "You shall not pass!" in the first "Lord of the Rings" movie, he officially became a hero to fantasy fans everywhere. The actor treats the role of Gandalf the wizard as if it were written by Shakespeare, bringing a grandiosity to his performance that makes the character truly seem larger than life (while some trick photography makes him look larger than the hobbits). Director Peter Jackson mounts his trilogy about a quest to destroy an all-powerful ring with a scope that harkens back to the epics of David Lean, creating a mythical world unlike anything we've ever seen. The films earned a cumulative 30 Oscar nominations and 17 wins, including Best Picture for the concluding chapter, "The Return of the King". McKellen won a SAG award and earned a Supporting Actor Oscar bid for the first entry, "The Fellowship of the Ring," losing at the Academy to Jim Broadbent ("Iris")





3. RICHARD III (1996)

Among the many films that transplant Shakespeare's work into modern times, Richard Loncraine's "Richard III" is one of the best. It takes as its inspiration McKellen's revered 1990 stage performance for the National Theater, which transports the Bard's classic play to an alternative 1930s London where fascism has swept the country. The actor chews the scenery with glee as the evil hunchback who murders and manipulates his way into becoming King. At times snarling, slimy, and funny, this is the definitive interpretation of the character (all due respect to the great Laurence Olivier, who played the role in a 1955 version). McKellen competed at the Golden Globes and BAFTA for the performance, but (in a fate that's even crueler than the one that befalls Richard) he was snubbed at the Oscars.

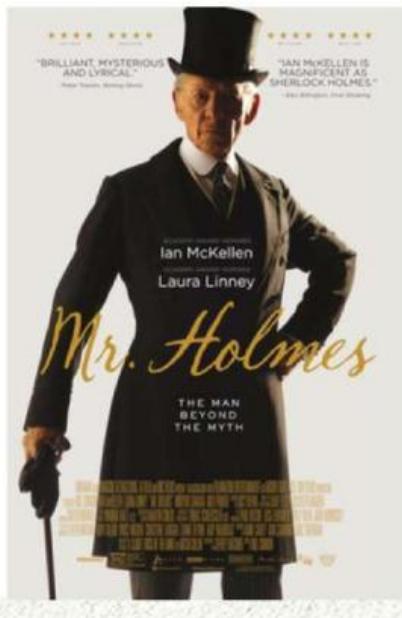
4. THE X-MEN SERIES (2000, 2003, 2006, 2014)

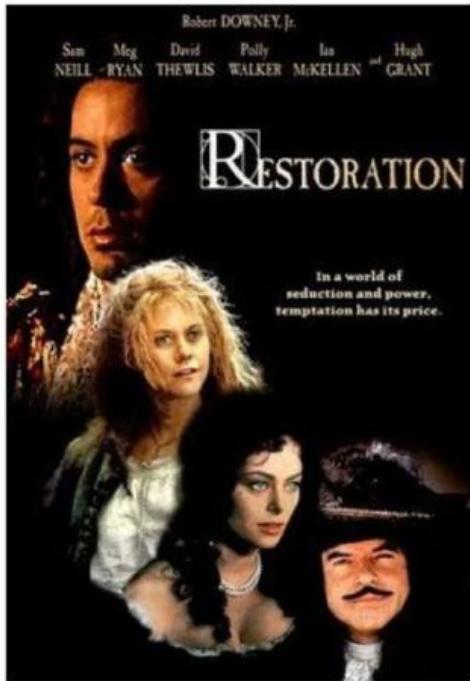
Though they vary wildly in quality (the less said about the Brett Ratner-directed "X-Men: The Last Stand", the better), the "X-Men" series helped point the superhero movie towards a more nuanced, adult direction that made it an artistically-viable genre. With its large cast of characters, it's easy for individual performers to get lost in the shuffle, yet McKellen is a standout as the villainous Magneto, who leads an army of mutants hell-bent on overtaking humanity. He spars with his former friend, X-Men commander Professor Charles Xavier (played by an equally mesmerizing Patrick Stewart), who runs a school that teaches gifted children how to use their powers for good. Watching these two veterans (who are real life friends) go head-to-head with each other is as thrilling as any action sequence.



5. MR. HOLMES (2015)

"Mr. Holmes" reunited McKellen with "Gods and Monsters" director Bill Condon, and while it fails to live up to their previous collaboration, it nevertheless provides the actor with one of his best late-career roles. He plays the famous sleuth at the end of his life, suffering from early dementia and reflecting on his last, unsolved case, seen through flashbacks. The heart of the film lies in Holmes's relationship with the young son (Milo Parker) of his no-nonsense housekeeper (Laura Linney), who hangs on his every word while helping him tend to his bees. A slight entertainment that's buoyed by McKellen's endlessly charming performance.



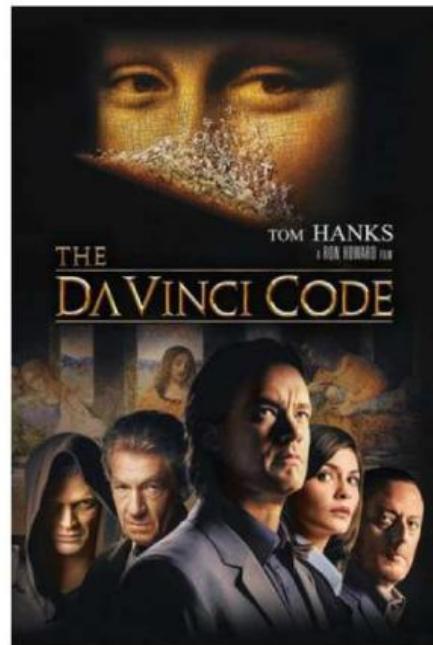


6. RESTORATION (1996)

In Michael Hoffman's "Restoration," Robert Downey, Jr. dons a frilly wig and puffy shirt to play a 17th century medical student who enjoys a life of debauchery after saving King Charles II's (Sam Neill) favorite spaniel, only to be cast out when he falls in love with one of the King's favorite mistresses (Polly Walker). Meanwhile, the Black Plague and the Great Fire devastate London. McKellen brings his usual bravado to the role of a cunning palace servant. Eugenio Zanetti's production design and James Acheson's costumes lavishly recreate the decadence of the royal court and the destitution of the London streets, and both won well deserved Oscars.

7. THE DA VINCI CODE (2006)

"The Da Vinci Code" and its sequels are first-rate trash, scorned by critics and lapped up by audiences. That's not surprising: the books by Dan Brown are a favorite for readers, and, as directed by Ron Howard, their ludicrous plots make for perfect potboiler entertainments. The initial entry in the franchise finds professor Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) trying to crack a code embedded in Da Vinci's "The Last Supper" that could shake the foundations of Christianity to its core. McKellen tears into the scenery like it were a delicious ribeye as Sir Leigh Teabring, a British historian who believes the Holy Grail is encoded in the painting.



8. ALL IS TRUE (2018)

McKellen has often excelled with the works of William Shakespeare on both the stage and screen, so he's a natural choice for a biopic about the playwright. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in "All Is True," which centers on the last days in the Bard's life. Judi Dench costars as his wife, Anne Hathaway, while McKellen has a few juicy scenes as the Earl of Southampton. Rather than focus on the creations of his many masterpieces, Branagh turns a spotlight on Shakespeare's personal life as a husband and father, making for a fascinating character study of an enigmatic figure.