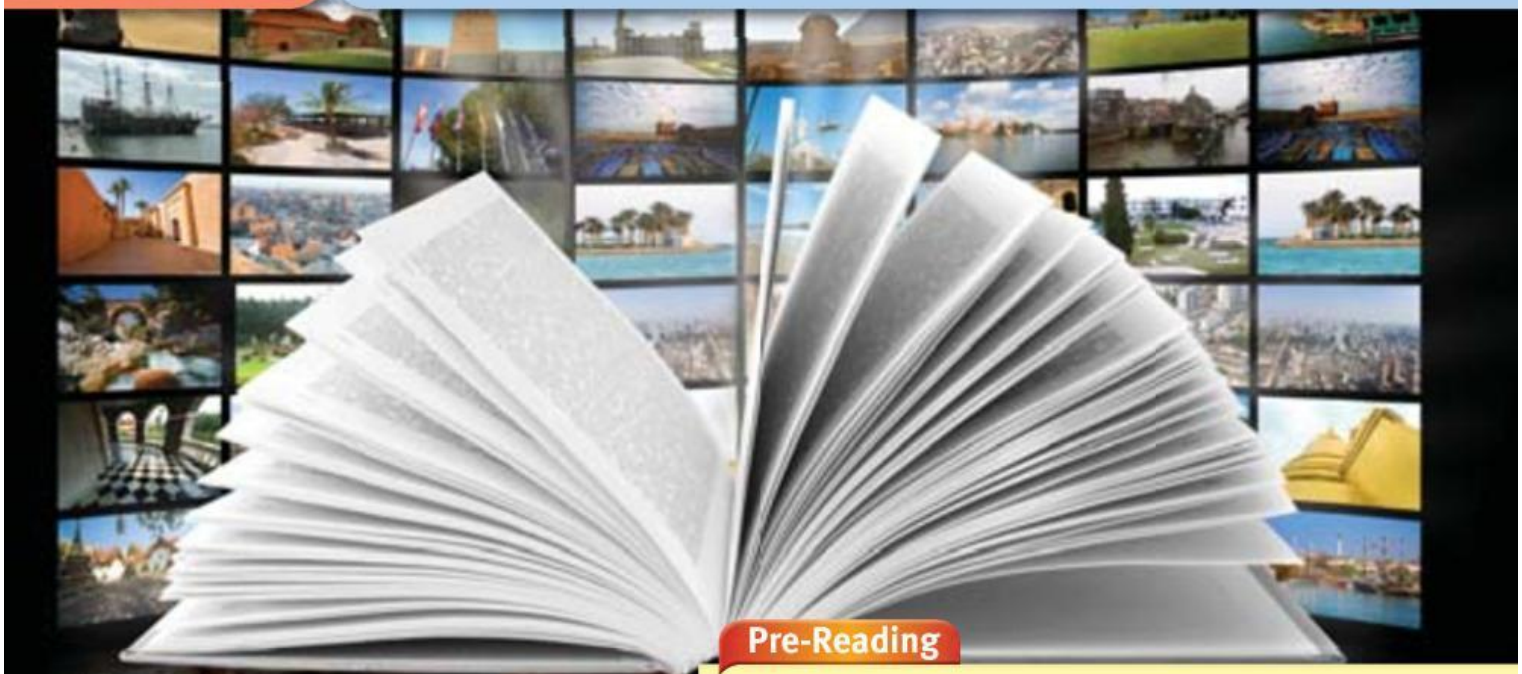
1 Read It or See It?



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. What book have you read that is also a movie?
2. Which did you do first, read the book or see the movie?
3. Which did you like better, the book or the movie? Why?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. changed	d. all of the creation and production facilities in the field
b. different forms	e. does not give in to; is not affected by
c. tried	f. people who give their professional opinions

1. ___ He <u>attempted</u> to write a novel, but he never finished it.
2. ___ The heart of the movie <u>industry</u> in the US is Hollywood.
3. ___ There are two famous movie <u>versions</u> of *Romeo and Juliet*.
4. ___ Not all movie <u>critics</u> agree about the value of certain movies.
5. ___ The writer <u>transformed</u> her short story into a two-hour movie.
6. ___ The author doesn't want Hollywood to make a movie of his book. He <u>resists</u> all of their offers.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Read It or See It?

Track 1

Since the early days of making movies, writers and **directors** have attempted to bring popular and classic novels to the big screen. That tradition continues today. The movie industry seems to believe that if the story made a great book, it should make a great movie as well. However, that rarely seems to be the case. More often than not, a great book turns out to be a **mediocre** movie in the opinion of most viewers. Perhaps that is because readers of the book have already made their own great "movies" in their heads. Then, when they see the studio's or the director's version of the story, it does not quite measure up to their expectations.

Over the past one hundred years of film production, there have only been a handful of movies that have **fulfilled** the ambition of turning the great book into a great movie. **Literary** critics as well as movie critics **applaud** both versions of *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest*. The classic children's story, *The Wizard of Oz*, was transformed into a classic movie musical that parents and children still enjoy today. Lovers of the historical novel, *Gone with the Wind*, continue to be swept away by the movie **adaptation** starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh. Science fiction readers as well as movie critics both **hail** Stanley Kubrick's film, *2001: A Space Odyssey*, which was co-written by Kubrick with the novel's author Arthur C. Clarke, as a **masterpiece**.

On the other hand, there have been instances when not-so-great novels have been transformed into great movies. Mario Puzo's *The Godfather* was quite popular at the time of its release as a novel, but critics hailed it more for its entertainment value than for its value as literature. The film adaptation of this popular novel, however, continues to be listed among the top ten greatest movies of all time. Likewise, the science fiction short story "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?" did not set the science fiction **genre** on fire when it came out. The movie version, though, made a much bigger impact in its **medium**. Today, *Blade Runner* continues to top critics' lists of great films.



Are there any books that are simply impossible to film? Although film makers would like to think not, it is a good bet that certain books will never be adapted into successful films. Books written in unique literary styles such as *Ulysses* by James Joyce and *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner have resisted film adaptation to rival the greatness of the books. Film makers will no doubt keep trying, of course. Readers and viewers will have to be the final judges of whether it is better to read the book or see the movie.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 461 words

1 *director*: a person who is in charge of making a movie
5 *mediocre*: average; not very good but not so bad
10 *fulfill*: to meet; to fit
11 *literary*: related to books or literature
11 *applaud*: to praise; to show approval of
14 *adaptation*: a form changed to fit a different medium
15 *hail*: to cheer; to give high approval to
17 *masterpiece*: an artist's greatest work
23 *genre*: a category of books or stories
25 *medium*: a type or way of communication or entertainment

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main focus of this reading?

a. Books that make more money than movies
b. Books written about movies
c. Movie made from books
d. Movie stars who have written books

2. Which of the following is considered both a great book and a great movie?

a. *Gone with the Wind*
b. *The Godfather*
c. *Transformers*
d. *Ulysses*

3. What is NOT true about "Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?"

a. It made a very good movie.
b. It is not a novel.
c. It was adapted into a movie.
d. It was not widely hailed by literary critics.

4. What does the word "rival" mean in this reading?

a. Enemy
b. Equal
c. Fight with
d. Surprise

5. Which of the following statements would the writer of this reading probably agree with?

a. Almost any book can easily be adapted into a good movie.
b. Faulkner knows a lot about both books and movies.
c. The movie *Ulysses* is better than Joyce's novel.
d. *The Sound and the Fury* will never be made into a great movie.

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **more often than not** [usually; in most cases]
  There is a bookstore near my school that, more often than not, has the books I'm looking for.
- **measure up to** [to have an equal value; to have the same quality]
  The restaurant did not measure up to all the good things I had heard about it.
- **it is a good bet** [more than likely; probably]
  It is a good bet that Jennifer will be late. She usually is.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. We noticed all the lights were out, so _____ nobody was at home.
2. I have to add salt to soups _____ because they taste too bland to me.
3. People who try to _____ their role models often disappoint themselves.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Fill in the blanks with the correct words or phrases.

attempted	**bet**	**critics**	**industry**
literary	**masterpieces**	**measure up**	**transformed**

Movie makers in Hollywood have 1 _____ many times over the years to make great books into great movies. However, viewers and 2 _____ usually agree that the movie version of a book does not quite 3 _____ to the book itself. While it is true that a few great books have been 4 _____ into great movies, there are only a handful of such cases. On the other hand, there have been cases when mediocre books and stories became 5 _____ in the hands of good writers and directors in the film 6 _____. Can all books be made into movies? It is a good 7 _____ such works as *Ulysses* and *The Sound and the Fury* will never become great movies because they are written in unique 8 _____ styles.



Listening

The Best Version

Track 2

Listen to the dialog and choose the best answer.

1. What are the speakers comparing?

a. A book and a movie
b. A play and a movie
c. Two books
d. Two movies

2. What can be inferred about the man?

a. He did not see the first movie.
b. He never watched a play in the theater.
c. He only read the book.
d. He rarely goes to the movie theater.

3. According to the speakers, what would younger children probably enjoy?

a. The darker version
b. The first movie
c. The recent movie
d. The short story

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. What is a famous book in your country that has been made into a movie?
2. What is a famous book from another country that has been made into a movie?
3. What is a good book you have read that you would like to see made into a movie?

Grammar

Subject-Verb Agreement

A verb always agrees with the subject of the clause, so it is important to locate the subject of the clause where the verb appears.

Are there any books that (is / are) simply impossible to film?
Books written in unique literary styles such as Ulysses *and* The Sound and the Fury *(has resisted / have resisted) film adaptation to rival the greatness of the books.*

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

A Book and a Movie

(1) What is a famous book in your country that has been made into a movie? **(2)** What did literary critics say about the book? **(3)** What did movie critics say about the movie? **(4)** Do you agree with the critics? **(5)** Why or why not?

Example

A famous book in my country that has been made into a movie is Tom Sawyer. Literary critics hail the book as a masterpiece of American literature. Movie critics did not give the movie high praise at all. I agree with the critics. The book was great, but the movie wasn't that good.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. The cat that lives by the river has _____ all of my efforts to make friends with her.
a. hailed b. resisted c. swept away d. transformed

2. If you buy a large drink at the movie theater, it is _____ that you won't finish the whole thing.
a. a handful of b. a good bet c. more often d. seems to be the case

3. Most people agree that the older _____ of the movie is better than the newer one.
a. masterpiece b. critic c. screen d. version

4. The actors in the movie are famous, but I've never heard of the _____.
a. adaptation b. director c. genre d. medium

5. Movies have the ability to _____ the way our society thinks about certain issues.
a. impact b. measure c. inform d. continue

6. It was a fun book to read, but I don't think it has much _____ value.
a. impossible b. literary c. mediocre d. perhaps

7. You didn't win the competition, but I _____ your effort.
a. applaud b. adore c. fulfill d. measure up

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. He was surprised when his suggestions to the committee did not meet much _____.
a. resistance b. resist c. resistor

9. The book's message was very powerful. It has a _____ power for readers.
a. transformation b. transformed c. transformative

10. Her co-workers do not appreciate her _____ attitude.
a. criticism b. critic c. critical

LIVEWORKSHEETS