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TOY STORY (1995)

Plot Summary

“Toy Story” is about the 'secret life of toys' when people are not around. A little boy named Andy loves to be in his room, playing with his toys, especially his doll named "Woody". When Buzz Lightyear, a space-ranger, takes Woody's place as Andy's favorite toy, Woody doesn't like the situation and gets into a fight with Buzz. Accidentally Buzz falls out the window and Woody is accused by all the other toys of having killed him. He has to go out of the house to look for him so that they can both return to Andy's room. But while on the outside they get into all kind of trouble while trying to get home.

EXERCISES

1. Active Vocabulary. Describe the situation in which the following words and word combinations were used:

stickup, reach for the sky, deputy, ages 3 and up, staff meeting, moving buddy, meeting adjourned, troops, to lie down on the job, mission accomplished, have you been replaced?, mixup, to infinity and beyond, on the top of the world, it was no accident, to promote revenge, universe is in jeopardy, to annihilate, restrains, to be heavily guarded, to be in charge, the claw, no way!, double prize, to blink smb to death, to be capable of atrocity, to recharge, available, disgusting, to fix, keep out of reach of children, to leave smb behind, permission launch, he is at it again.

2. Fill in the gaps with the help of Active Vocabulary:

1. The _____ at the bank was carried out in broad daylight.
2. I'm acting as _____ while the boss is away.
3. The meeting was _____ until Tuesday.
4. The students _____ the task in less than ten minutes.
5. The factory _____ most of its workers with robots.
6. She was feeling on _____ of the world.
7. She took _____ on him for leaving her by smashing up his car.
8. The lives of thousands of birds are in _____ as a result of the oil spillage.
9. Who will be in _____ of the department when Sophie leaves?
10. These people are guilty of acts of great _____.
11. Our autumn catalogue is now _____.
12. Passengers were kept for hours in a _____ waiting room.
13. We left in a hurry and I must have _____ my keys _____.
14. You will need _____ from the council to extend your garage.

3. Questions for discussion:

- a) Did you use to have a lot of toys when you were a child? What happened to them? Do you still keep any?

- b) Would you agree that this cartoon is not only a “toy story”? What is the message of the cartoon?
- c) Do you agree with the quotation from Girl Scout song "Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold"?

4. Read a review and write your own one:

Children play with toys. It is a known fact. At one time or another, we all played with toys, whether they were action figures, dolls, little green soldiers, etc... But what if toys were real? What if they could talk? Pixar and Disney serve us this theory in what was the first full-length computer-animated film ever, “Toy Story”, chronicling the events in the life of a cowboy doll, Woody.

Woody is the favorite toy of his owner, a small child named Andy. Andy brings Woody everywhere, and cherishes him, as we see in the beginning of the film. However, this all changes on Andy's birthday when Andy gets a new toy: a Buzz Lightyear doll. Woody is suddenly forgotten, left with the rest of his friends: Mr. Potato Head, Rex, Slinky Dog and Ham.

But after Buzz accidentally gets knocked out an upstairs window, Woody is the prime suspect. Now, after Woody and Buzz end up next door, in toy killer Sid's house, Woody must prove his innocence by getting both Buzz and him back to Andy's house safely.

“Toy Story” builds on an element we all shrug off carelessly and thoughtlessly. Much like they did last year with monsters under the bed, Pixar took the theory of live toys to a new level in “Toy Story”, filling our minds with endless possibilities. What Pixar does is a strange thing. It doesn't just try to expand our mind, but also our world. I respect and enjoy that. In “Monsters, Inc.”, Pixar managed to preach to us 'What if monsters under the bed are real, and what if they have a world much like ours, and have feelings like humans,' while never forgetting the equally important formula of humor. Much is the same with their earlier film “Toy Story”. What if those wooden and plastic toys we all played with as kids are real? What if they have feelings, emotions, voices, and human qualities? An interesting idea by itself, but when mixed with a wicked sense of humor and reality, you've got yourself one of the best films ever.

Tom Hanks is perfect as Woody. Pixar must have modeled the doll's expressions and movements after Hanks, because after a while, I feel like I AM watching Hanks on screen, and NOT a computer-generated image. When you get to the point of not being able to tell animation from reality, you know that the voices are good.

The rest of the cast is excellent, all very believable and entertaining. You begin to love each character for their distinguishing traits, and that is always refreshing. I can safely say that I have not enjoyed animated films quite so much over the years as I have enjoyed Pixar films.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN (2005)

Plot Summary

High schooler Frank Abagnale Jr. idolizes his father, who's in trouble with the IRS. When his parents separate, Frank runs away to Manhattan with \$25 in his checking account, vowing to regain dad's losses and get his parents back together. Just a few years later, the FBI tracks him down in France; he's extradited, tried, and jailed for passing more than \$4,000,000 in bad checks. Along the way, he's posed as a Pan Am pilot, a pediatrician, and an attorney. And, from nearly the beginning of this life of crime, he's been pursued by a dour FBI agent, Carl Hanratty.

EXERCISES

1. Active Vocabulary. Describe the situation in which the following words and word combinations were used:

the most outrageous impostor, the chief resident pediatrician, an assistant attorney general, the most daring con man, cashed almost \$4 million in fraudulent checks, to go in for a legitimate profession, fascinating, holding smb responsible, handful of deserving gentlemen inducted as lifetime members, drown, churned that cream into butter, military funeral, tax fraud, opened a checking account in your name, turned smb down, a substitute teacher, attendance, a class field trip, to fold, a fake, crease, sue the government, custody, to be allowed to do smth, badge, to be headed to Paris, uniform supplier, bill, a payroll check, a deadhead, to encode the account numbers, a paperhanger, check fraud, birdman, undercover, screwed up, crime scene, landed yourself a pretty good collar, to hide behind smth, to volunteer, comic book, juvenile runaways, to fire smb, an emergency room supervisor, to concur, enlisted in the Marine Corps, to say grace, Assistant Prosecutor, preliminary hearing, to call a truce, engagement announcement, to crash smb's party, no matter what, layout, initiating a new recruiting program, put the cuffs on smb, surrendered of his own accord, to be treated as a minor, a stencil machine, a teller, remainder of smb's sentence, to arrange smb's release, counterfeiting, altering check, signature, the most elusive check forgers and counterfeiters, the foremost authorities on bank fraud and forgery, to remain close friends.

2. Fill in the gaps with the help of Active Vocabulary:

1. He felt like an _____ among all those intelligent people, as if he had no right to be there.
2. This is a _____ new film by one of our most original modern directors.
3. A worrying trend for insurers has been a rise in _____ claims.
4. The book offers a _____ glimpse of the lives of the rich and famous.
5. Marriage is no longer always seen as a _____ commitment.
6. He offered her a trip to Australia but she _____ him down.
7. Tofu can be used as a meat _____ in vegetarian recipes.
8. Experts revealed that the painting was a _____.

9. The court gave _____ of the child to the father.
10. We were _____ towards Kumasi when our truck broke down.
11. They asked the waitress for the _____.
12. Many satellite broadcasts are _____ so that they can only be received by people who have paid to see them.
13. He was working _____ at the time almost certainly for the British Secret Service.
14. Evidence was found at the _____.
15. We're searching for a couple of _____ from the young offenders' institution.
16. "I think you're absolutely right, " _____ Chris.
17. The pilot of the aircraft was forced to make an _____ landing on Lake Geneva.
18. They both _____ in the navy a year before the war broke out.
19. The children always say _____ at school.
20. _____ results show that the vaccine is effective, but this has to be confirmed by further medical trials.
21. After years of rivalry, the two companies have agreed a _____.
22. Application forms vary greatly in _____ and length.
23. She was taken to the police station in _____.
24. She came of her own _____: No one asked her to come.
25. It rained the first day but the _____ of the trip was lovely.
26. Two women and a man have been convicted of _____ \$100 bills.
27. Success, however, remained _____ for her.
28. He increased his income by _____.

3. Questions for discussion:

- a) What is your idea of Frank's character?
- b) Do you know any other famous swindlers, criminals' stories?

4. Read the reviews and write your own one:

A) This was an entertaining and fun piece of film making from the ever-reliable Steven Spielberg. It is a bit of a depart from his usual full-blown and hugely epic pictures, yet this does not detract at all from the fascinating story of Frank Abagnale Jr. I was interested in this man before I'd seen the movie, and it only served to increase my interest. Although it is important to remember (as with any such film) that this is only 'inspired' by a true story and not told word for word from one, the plot is fascinating and keeps you laughing, crying and wondering until the end. Frank Abagnale Jr. is an astounding and interesting character. The real life Abagnale originally said that he did not believe Dicaprio to be 'suave' enough to play the role, but he certainly does pull it off. Dicaprio's acting is superb, and totally believable as a man who could lie to, deceive, and con everyone he met without once losing any of

his charisma or charm. Hanks is also excellent, he plays the role of the obsessed FBI agent well, and also with a likable quality.

I loved the look of the film. It was a refreshing blast to see the 60s portrayed in such a vivid and colorful way. The whole setting and atmosphere of the film gave it a wonderful and almost (I hesitate to use the word) 'magical' sense. However, the film is rife with moral ambiguity. As much fun as it is to watch DiCaprio jumping from one place (and identity) to the next, forging checks and spending inordinate amounts of money at a whim, the film never really focuses on the morally bankrupt side of the story. The portion of the film devoted to this at the end still seems to skim over the fact that this man has stolen millions of dollars. It ends on a high note for Frank Abagnale Jr., never fully spelling out the wrongs he committed. Still, this would probably bring the whole film down, and sometimes it's fun just to enjoy a bit of escapism without being told off for desiring such things. I mean, it's hard to be totally strict and upright!

B) From the opening credits design we get in the mood of this very entertaining film. They create the tone for what will follow. Steven Spielberg is in rare form directing this movie that doesn't have a dull moment.

Mr. Spielberg has found a perfect actor to fill the shoes of the con man with the perfect casting of Leonardo DiCaprio. It's very easy to see why all the women fall prey of this charmer. He was a fast talker and a slick operator. He exudes charisma to fill another couple of movies.

It's a welcome sight to have Mr. DiCaprio working in a vehicle that shows his talent as Frank Abagnale, a man of many faces. He plays a game of hide-and-seek throughout the movie with Hanratty, the FBI agent that is in his trail. Tom Hanks shows great assurance and gusto with this character. Of course, the DiCaprio magnetism dominates the action with the many ironic twists and the miraculous and narrow escapes he pulls with an aplomb that's bewildering to the Feds, who are on his tail all the time.

The action doesn't stop for one moment. This film is great fun to watch with the winning combination Mr. Spielberg assured hand gives us this time out. Mr. Spielberg can thank the genial Mr. DiCaprio who responds obviously to his direction and makes this con man endearing even when he is committing crimes.

BIG FISH (2003)

Plot Summary

This film follows the incredible life of Edward Bloom, through a series of flashbacks that begin when his son Will visits him for the last time. Edward is dying of cancer, and Will hasn't spoken to him for years because he believes him to be a liar that never really cared for his family. The son winds up re-creating his father's elusive life in a series of legends and myths inspired by the few facts he knows. As Edward's story unfolds once again, Will tries to finally understand the truth about who his father really was...

1. Active Vocabulary. Describe the situation from the film where the following words or word combinations were used:

Drowned, Cretaceous period, didn't put any stock into such speculation or superstition, truly desired, predicament, had him boxed in, to offer her a wedding ring, a footnote, a punchline, to revolve around smb, to embarrass smb, strangers, to separate the fact from the fiction, set the pace for his unlikely life, swamp, misbehaving children, to contain mystical powers, survive, feared death, I'm up for it, confining, was intended for, a giant man can't have an ordinary-sized life, mob violence, grow to a certain size, with a heavy heart, developed the reputation of being haunted, a reasonable man, swallow his pride, to show work in progress, a catch, the most elaborate French, was engaged to smb, do charity, I prefer him to you, arduous journey, a likeable guy, a fake, went missing, a complete fabrication, deceased, motto, to be bankrupt, fee, to have an affair, to reconcile, to take a liking to smb, to take smb by surprise, to be preserved, a sort of midlife crisis, the common belief, a stroke, delivery, immortal.

2. Fill in the gaps with the help of Active Vocabulary:

1. He _____ in a boating accident.
2. The hotel had everything you could possibly _____.
3. I'm in a bit of a _____ because I've accidentally accepted two invitations to dinner on the same night.
4. His triumph 5 years ago now seems a mere _____ in history.
5. The Earth _____ around the sun.
6. When he's telling you something, you never know what's fact and what's _____.
7. I was always getting in trouble for _____ at school.
8. The course is _____ for intermediate-level students.
9. With a _____, she turned to wave goodbye.
10. If you tell him what happened, I'm sure he'll understand - he's a _____ man.
11. Repair work is in _____ on the motorway and will continue until June.
12. The fishermen were disappointed with their _____ that day.
13. They did a _____ performance on the first night, to raise money for AIDS research.
14. He's a very _____ sort of bloke.
15. The evidence he gave in court was a complete _____.
16. We couldn't pay the lawyer's _____.
17. It's difficult to _____ such different points of view.
18. We want to _____ the character of the town while improving the facilities.
19. The sudden noise took her _____.
20. She had a _____ which left her unable to speak.

3. Questions for discussion:

1. Have you ever heard any unbelievable stories that turned out to be true?
2. Are you good at storytelling? Do you often change facts or omit them while telling a story to make it sound more interesting?

3. What is your favourite tall tale from “The Big Fish”?

4. Read the reviews and write your own one:

After wasting his talent on “Planet Of The Apes” in 2001, director Tim Burton returns to form with the enchanting Big Fish, the finest film of his career. Based on the little known novel by Daniel Wallace, the movie charts a son's attempts to reconcile with his dying father. Ewan McGregor and Albert Finney shine as young and old incarnations of Edward Bloom, whose tall tales are at the heart of the film.

Bloom is a man whose outlandish stories about his past amuse everyone. Everyone except neglected journalist son Will. The film flits between the present-day - where Finney plays the ageing, bed-ridden Bloom - and a series of flashbacks, where the young Edward embarks on a series of fantastical adventures.

Steven Spielberg was initially set to land Big Fish, but this is the one that got away. Which is good news for us, and great news for Tim Burton. The quirkysomething gets everything right here: his film is feelgood without being overly sentimental; romantic without being cloying; moving without being mawkish.

Both a celebration of the art of storytelling and a touching father-son drama, this is arguably the best use yet of computer-generated images to enhance and enrich a movie - Big Fish cost \$70 million to make, and it's all on the screen for your enjoyment.

Burton is aided by some wonderful performances; a moving and frequently laugh-out-loud hilarious script by John August; and by his own boundless visual imagination. Big Fish really is a film you have to catch. Trust us, you'll be hooked.

Memorable quotes for “Big Fish”

Amos Calloway: Tell me, Karl, have you ever heard the term "involuntary servitude"?

Karl: No.

Amos Calloway: "Unconscionable contract"?

Karl: Uh, nope.

Amos Calloway: Great!

Senior Ed Bloom: There's a time when a man needs to fight, and a time when he needs to accept that his destiny is lost... the ship has sailed and only a fool would continue. Truth is... I've always been a fool.

Will Bloom: A man tells his stories so many times that he becomes the stories. They live on after him, and in that way he becomes immortal.

Josephine: I'd like to take your picture.

Senior Ed Bloom: Oh, you don't need a picture. Just look up "handsome" in the dictionary.

Senior Ed Bloom: I've told you a thousand facts, Will, that's what I do. I tell stories.

Will Bloom: You tell lies, Dad.

Sandra Bloom: You don't even know me.

Young Ed Bloom: I have the rest of my life to find out.

Amos Calloway: I haven't seen a customer this depressed since the elephant sat on that farmer's wife!

Norther Winslow: I've been working on this poem for 12 years.

Young Ed Bloom: Really?

Norther Winslow: There's a lot of expectation. I don't wanna disappoint my fans.

Young Ed Bloom: May I?

Young Ed Bloom: [*Edward reads the poem on the notebook*] The grass so green. Skies so blue. Spectre is really great!

Young Ed Bloom: It's only three lines long.

Norther Winslow: This is why you should never show a work in progress.

THE TERMINAL (2004)

Plot Summary

Viktor Navorski, a man from an Eastern European country arrives in New York. However after he left his country war broke out. Suddenly Navorski is a man without a country - or one that the U.S. cannot recognize, thus he is denied entrance to the U.S. However, he also can't be deported so he is told by the Security Manager that he has to remain in the airport until his status can be fixed. And also Navorski doesn't speak English very well, so he cannot talk to or understand anyone. But he somehow adapts and sets up residence in the airport, which makes the man who placed him there unhappy, as it seems he is in line for a promotion but Navorski's presence might complicate that. So he tries to get Navorski to leave but Navorski remains where he is. Navorski makes friends with some of the people who work in the airport and is attracted to a flight attendant he runs into whenever she comes in.

1. Active Vocabulary. Describe the situation from the film where the following words or word combinations were used:

return ticket, suspended all traveling privileges, revoked the visa, a military coup, visa's no longer valid, asylum, refugee status, to detain smb, food vouchers, rebel leaders, deport smb, CIA, a man of misery, establish a credible fear, delayed a long time, curious, asked smb out, run a clearance on smb, compassion, connections, inscription, owe smb much

2. Fill in the gaps with the help of Active Vocabulary:

1. May I have a _____ ticket to Birmingham, please?
2. The ferry service has been _____ for the day because of bad weather.
3. The authorities have _____ their original decision to allow development of this rural area.

4. My passport is _____ for another two years.
5. Thousands of _____ fled across the border.
6. A suspect has been _____ by the police for further questioning.
7. He was a bit of a _____ when he was a teenager and dyed his hair pink.
8. Thousands of illegal immigrants are caught and _____ every year.
9. They haven't produced any _____ evidence for convicting him.
10. I was hoping she might show a little _____.
11. They're sisters, are they? I knew their surname was the same, but I never thought of the _____.
12. The _____ read 'To darling Molly. Christmas 1904.'

3. Questions for discussion:

- a) Have you ever found yourself in a position similar to Victor's, i.e. have you ever felt trapped? Can you describe the situation?
- b) Are you afraid to travel by plane?

4. Read the reviews and write your own one:

Steven Spielberg seems to go through phases of obsession. When he made "Schindler's List" he immersed himself in the holocaust, when he did "Saving Private Ryan" he became obsessed with World War II, and after "A.I." he focused on future fiction and released "Minority Report". After "Catch Me if You Can", his latest passing interest is apparently airports and Tom Hanks' Viktor Navorski pays the price as Spielberg strands him indefinitely in a fictional terminal.

Navorski you see is from a tiny Eastern European country torn apart by a fierce coup. He arrives in New York, passport in hand and armed with a couple of poorly understood English phrases, only to discover his country no longer exists. His visa is denied. He cannot enter New York nor is there any way he can be returned home. He's fallen through what studiously strict airport supervisor Frank Dixon describes as a crack in the system and as such is unacceptable. He's released to the confines of the airport for what Dixon predicts may only be a few days, but soon turns into months. Viktor cannot leave or he risks federal prison, he cannot go home since there's no one to take him, and so he waits in the ultimate traveler's nightmare.

The specifics of all this are a little confusing and we never really seem to understand why Viktor won't simply sneak out of the airport when no one is looking. While the premise may be a little shaky, it's Hanks' utterly convincing performance that sells it. He plays Viktor as amiable and serious, even when struggling to speak English through a thick, Russian-like accent. The accent by the way is pretty convincing, in part because Viktor isn't prone to speaking often or quickly. Hanks struggles through wonderfully halting speech as the obviously intelligent foreigner stumbles in attempting to cope with his bizarre and unenviable situation, which would paint him unfairly as a buffoon. Sure, there are plenty of jokes about his inability to understand English and maybe that could be considered cheap. But Spielberg's take is kind and Hank's performance so gentle and subtle that the jokes come off as genuine and Viktor's potentially cliché confusion is both entertaining and touching. It's just impossibly easy to warm up to Viktor, as it almost always is to any Hanks character. He's someone you can instantly care about and root for, whether looking for precious

food-buying quarters or constructing sleeping arrangements in some back corner of a lonely airport.

Spielberg shoots Viktor lovingly, a forgotten traveler going nowhere while everyone else is going somewhere. Spielberg bathes him in flickering neon lights, sometimes flashing glaring airport brights right into the camera so that the light flows and crashes around him in key emotional moments. The airport itself even takes on life of its own through the antiquated arrivals and departures board Spielberg uses as sort of a title card between scenes. I can't help but enjoy the supporting characters he surrounds him with too, airport employees who are at first suspicious but eventually embrace him. They give America a positive face to Viktor in contrast to the evil, unfeeling one portrayed by the hidebound immigration administration who holds him prisoner.

Then there's Catherine Zeta-Jones, who slips quite literally into the picture a little ways in, when Viktor is hopelessly mired in his bad situation. Theirs is an abortive attempt at a love story, which maybe even could have enjoyed it as a way to bring out the best in Hanks' character, fails utterly on the spiked heels of Zeta-Jones. The woman can't act. It's impossible not to hate her, and not just because she can't commit.

Thank god their relationship isn't the only focus of the film, or "The Terminal" would be a total disaster. This is an otherwise pretty simple movie that relies on Hanks to kick in another admirable performance and gives Steven freedom to create.

THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS (2012)

PLOT SUMMARY

After years of humiliation and failed attempts to win the coveted Pirate of the Year Award, Pirate Captain and his oddball crew take on the cream of the pirating crop - Black Bellamy, Peg Leg Hastings and Cutlass Liz - in a race to pillage the most booty. They soon cross paths with lovelorn scientist Charles Darwin, who persuades the Captain that the crew's prized 'parrot', Polly, could be the answer to the 'untold riches' they are searching for. Their adventure takes them to Victorian London where they meet Darwin's sidekick 'man-panzee' Mister Bobo, and the notorious pirate-hating Queen Victoria herself. It soon unfolds that Darwin's motives for helping the crew are not what they seem, and the Queen has an evil hidden agenda of her own. The Pirate Captain must choose between basking in the glory of being crowned Pirate of the Year, or staying faithful to his trusted crew.

CULTURAL NOTES

Vice Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood, 1st Baron Collingwood (1748-1810) — an admiral of the Royal Navy, notable as a partner with Lord Nelson in several of the British victories of the Napoleonic Wars, and frequently as Nelson's successor in commands.

Queen Victoria — (1819-1901) the British queen from 1837 until her death, who also had the title "Empress of India". She was queen for 64 years, longer than any other British king or queen, during a period of great change. While she was queen, the UK became one of the richest and most powerful countries in the world, as a result of the growth of industry and the development of the British Empire. People think now of the "Victorian" period as a time of strict moral standards, when people were very serious, marriages were always permanent, and intimate details of private life were never mentioned. Victoria was married to a German prince, Prince Albert.

The Spanish Main — the area around the coast of northern South America, from which Spanish ships carried gold and treasure back to Spain during the 16th and 17th centuries. Many of these ships were attacked by pirates, and there are many stories and films about the exciting adventures of the people who sailed the Spanish Main.

Field trip — an occasion when students go somewhere to learn about a particular subject, especially one connected with nature or science.

Naturist — someone who enjoys not wearing any clothes because they believe it is natural and healthy to do this [= nudist].

Ghost ship — an imaginary ship.

Aztec → a member of a Mexican Indian people who established a great empire, centred on the valley of Mexico, that was overthrown by Cortés and his followers in the early 16th century.

Charles Darwin — (1809-82) a British scientist who developed the theory of evolution, which is the idea that plants and animals develop gradually from simpler to more complicated forms by natural selection. This is the process by which only plants and animals that are naturally suitable for life in their environment will continue to live, while all others will die. He wrote about his ideas in his book *On the Origin of Species*.

Journal of Charles Darwin — *The Voyage of the Beagle* is a title commonly given to the book written by Charles Darwin and published in 1839 as his *Journal and Remarks*, bringing him considerable fame and respect. The book, also known as Darwin's *Journal of Researches*, is a vivid and exciting travel memoir as well as a detailed scientific field journal covering biology, geology, and anthropology that demonstrates Darwin's keen powers of observation, written at a time when Western Europeans were exploring and charting the whole world.

The Beagle — the ship on which Charles Darwin travelled to South America, where he studied and collected many different types of plants and animals. Darwin's work made *Beagle* one of the most famous ships in history.

The Royal Society — the oldest and most respected scientific society in the UK, started in the 17th century to promote research in the sciences. Its members are called "Fellows" and they are elected if they have done high-quality work in any area of science.

Bunsen burner — a gas burner, widely used in scientific laboratories, consisting of a metal tube with an adjustable air valve at the base.

Jane Austen — (1775-1817) a British writer who wrote in a clever and amusing way about the way of life of English middle class people of her time. Her

novels, which are among the most important works of English literature, include *Pride and Prejudice*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Emma*.

The Tower of London — a fortress in London next to the River Thames, built in the 11th century but originally built in Roman times. The kings and queens of England lived there in the past, and many important people were kept as prisoners there. It is now a museum.

EXERCISES

1. Active Vocabulary. Describe the situation in which the following words and word combinations were used:

to loot, to contend, scurvy, to settle down, rogue, crew, the seven seas, curvaceous, to plunder, shoo-in, to match someone/something, peg leg, to untangle, give sb a break, to take to sth, booty, wreck, to pillage, to clash with sth, plague, hiccup, be the best thing since sliced bread, to hoist a flag, gruesome, get on with it, be on about sth, it can't be helped, mortal enemy, harebrained schemes, to try one's hand at sth, disguise, ingenious, to lie low, boffin, be a dime a dozen, not a patch on, be up to no good, lavish, to find fault with sth/sb, beauty sleep, to drop off, to play innocent, henchman, to make off with sth, what's what, to take (sth) over, poindexter, to astound, exchange rate, as the next man/person, to take a shine to sb, be the toast of Broadway/Hollywood, to go doolally, to be playing at sth, to be smitten with sb, aloof, to get/keep a grip on yourself, soft spot, to muddle sb/sth (up), for good measure, to be (just) the ticket, villainous, treachery, to betray, the high life, flagship, to be on the case, single-handed, fair play, to outlaw.

2. Fill in the gaps with the help of Active Vocabulary:

- 1) But presumably he must have _____ to Celia, particularly as he had gone to such trouble to seek her out and visit her at the Meadhaven Clinic.
- 2) She'd always had a _____ for her younger nephew.
- 3) My mother's always _____ with everything I do.
- 4) Manchester United's a _____ to win the title this season.
- 5) I'd _____ if I were you till the trouble passes.
- 6) He had to _____ on his nerves
- 7) It was also the _____ of horses and would rip them apart in seconds with its mighty talons.
- 8) Poor Mrs. Sturgess — she had to clean the school _____, light the stoves, fill the scuttles, and the job was only part-time!
- 9) A wet spring would be _____ for the garden
- 10) _____ her a _____ - she's only a child and she didn't mean any harm.
- 11) Books like this are _____.
- 12) I might _____ at a bit of Chinese cookery.
- 13) We've had one or two slight _____, but progress has generally been quite steady.
- 14) That sounds like another of his _____!
- 15) She's _____ tennis like a duck to water.

3. Translate the following sentences from the film:

- 1) Don't worry, sir. He's all flash and no bang.
- 2) We'll show those swabs a thing or two about pirating.
- 3) Ninth time lucky!
- 4) Let's make their gizzards shake.
- 5) It's nothing personal, you understand.
- 6) Last request, is it?
- 7) It's such a missed opportunity.
- 8) I see you're a man of vision!
- 9) Well, blow me down.
- 10) Give it up for the Pirate Captain!
- 11) Don't play the innocent.
- 12) Leave everything to me.
- 13) That is on a need-to-know basis from here on in, Charles.
- 14) Captain, I really, really think it would be best if I take over from here.
- 15) What's the monkey-man playing at?
- 16) It's the bun. The bun really does it for me.
- 17) See if I care!
- 18) It's impossible odds!
- 19) All clear, Chuck.
- 20) A minute on the lips is a lifetime on the (hips).
- 21) En garde!
- 22) Don't worry, they're on the case.
- 23) You'll swing for this! Curse you!

4. Questions for discussion:

- a) What is it about pirate tales that continues to be so compelling for movie audiences? How are the crew members in *The Pirates!* different than other movie mates?
- b) What do you think makes people want to be rich and famous? What priorities do you have in life?
- c) Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "The friends you make after you've become famous are better, truer friends than the ones you've had for years beforehand."?
- d) How does the movie depict Charles Darwin and Queen Victoria? Do you think that the characters are portrayed accurately? Is it OK for filmmakers to take liberties with historical figures for the sake of humor?
- e) What do you think about the idea behind the dining society? Would you ever agree to taste the meat of a rare or endangered animal? Why / why not?
- f) What are your views on evolution?
- g) Some of the movie's jokes are specifically aimed at grown-ups; do you think too much of the humor is historical or for adults? Do you think jokes for parents are necessary in kids' movies?

5. Read a review and write your own one:

Parents need to know that *The Pirates! Band of Misfits* isn't your typical pirate adventure, but there's still action, mild high-seas peril, a little bit of colorful language ("hell," etc.), and some parent-targeted jokes about the two historical characters depicted in the movie: Queen Victoria and Charles Darwin. Although the pirates use guns and swords and have hand-to-hand fights, they don't face any real danger until the climactic battle with the queen; before that, their enemies are schoolchildren, lepers, and ghosts. That said, the queen is quite menacing, and Darwin is greedy in his attempts to steal from the pirates. But the pirates themselves, rather than being bloodthirsty and selfish, are more like a family that sticks together, loot or no loot.

Fans of Aardman Studios' signature style of stop-motion clay animation (a la *Chicken Run* and *Wallace & Gromit*), will find *THE PIRATES! BAND OF MISFITS* a delightful mix of swashbuckling pirate adventure, Charles Darwin biography, and twisted Victoriana lesson. This isn't the kind of Queen Victoria anyone has ever seen before; this one is young, angry, and ready to squash anyone who gets in her way -- especially those dirty, outdated pirates. Tennant's Darwin is particularly hilarious and Machiavellian (which perhaps is in keeping with the legendary naturalist's theories) in his quest to control the Dodo bird. But the real scene-stealer is Darwin's trained butler, a monkey called Mr. Bobo who communicates via a series of index cards. "Uh" and "oh," he holds up whenever danger is imminent.

In his first voice-acting role, Grant is perfectly suited to his part as the Pirate Captain with a "luxuriant beard" and well-appointed pirate garb. His misfit crew includes an albino (Anton Yelchin), a "surprisingly curvaceous" pirate (Ashley Jensen) who's actually a woman with a fake beard, and a pirate with gout (Brendan Gleeson). The animation is what you'd expect from the detailed animators behind *Wallace & Gromit*, but it's the inventive story that makes *The Pirates!* so much fun for parents and kids alike. It's got plenty of grown-up jokes (mostly historical ones), but the humor is still accessible to little mateys, although those who've heard of Darwin will be in for a particularly "plunderful" treat.