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Film Issue

CENTER FOR ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND AMERICAN CULTURE –ADVANCED WRITING

SPRING 2016

The Notebook

by Pagmasuren Khadbaatar, Mongolia

There are many movies that are based on novels. One of the most popular movie of them is "The Notebook." The Notebook is a romantic novel by American novelist Nicholas Sparks, written in 1996 and based on a true story. The novel was adapted into a popular film in 2004, directed by Nick Cassavetes and won MTV Movie awards for Best Kiss and ten other awards.

This novel is about a true story of Sparks' wife's grandparents who had been married for more than sixty years when Sparks met them. Can you imagine how he felt when he first met them and how it affected him to write a novel about them?

The story begins with an old man reading a story to an old woman: Noah, 31, returns from WWII to North Carolina. He has just finished restoring a house. Allie, 29, accidentally sees a photo of Noah and his house in the newspaper and decides to visit him.

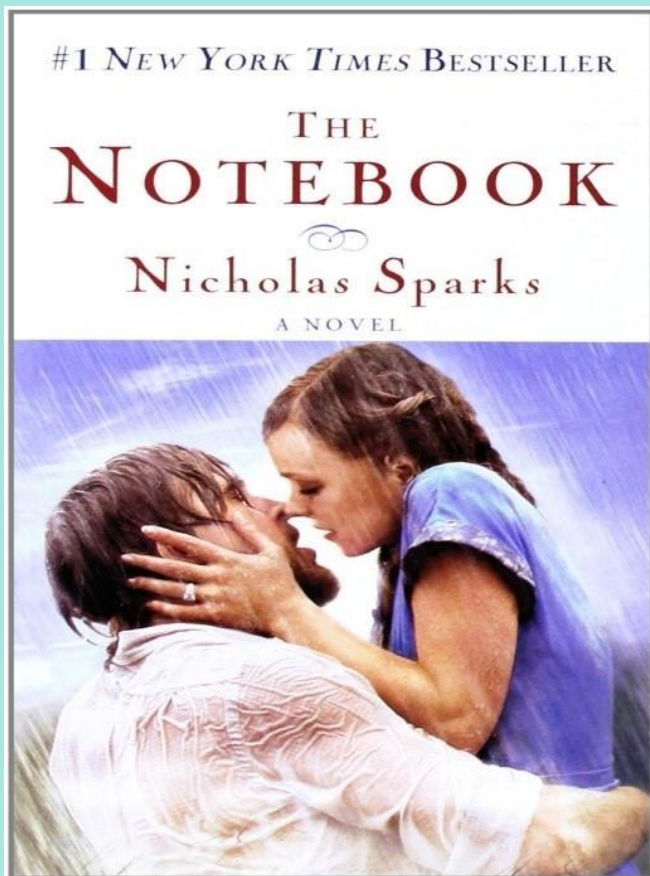
They meet again after 14 years, having been separated because of their different social classes and outlooks. (Noah was a laborer and Allie's family was wealthy.)

When they see each other again, their memory is revived and they are both emotional. The next day they meet in a small lake, and suddenly it rains and they both get soaked. So they go to his house and talk about their life and make love. Then they realize Allie's mom hid the letters that were from Noah to Allie. Finally, Allie gets the letters from her mom and needs to make a decision for the love of her life. Even though she knows she loves Noah, she decides to go back to her previous life with her husband.

The old man stops reading at this point. We find out that he is reading to his wife who suffers from Alzheimer's disease and does not recognize him. Sometimes his wife forgets who he is and their story. The old man also suffers from heart disease. At the end, his wife suddenly surprisingly remembers him as her husband, Noah. The

old man is very happy and they sleep next to each other and believe in their love.

The best thing of this film is it is about a true love but at the same time sad because of the Alzheimer's disease. This makes the audience wonder what happened since then, how they met again after all, and if she forgets her story again. If it was something other than Alzheimer's, their life would be different and live happily ever after.



Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams as a young Noah and Allie

Waterloo Bridge

by Wenbo Chen, China



Do you like classic movies? Nowadays young people don't like classic movies because the technology of film has developed and the picture on the screen looks old. However classic movies stand the test of time. I will introduce a classic movie named "Waterloo Bridge" that is a black and white movie shot in 1940.

During the First World War, Captain Roy returns home on vacation to Waterloo Bridge and meets a dancer named Myra (Vivien Leigh). They fall in love with each other. When they decide to get married, Roy is called back to camp and they are forced to separate.

Because she missed dance performances, Myra is fired and has to live with her friends. However, Myra hears about Roy's death. Myra, losing love, feels hopeless. In order to survive, she and her friends have to become prostitutes. However, Myra unexpectedly meets Roy. Although Myra is excited that Roy survived, Myra is

sad that she is a prostitute. Myra leaves in tears and comes to the place where they met for the first time - Waterloo Bridge

Why is this film named "Waterloo Bridge?" Because in France Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo, and finished his political career. In the movie, Roy and Myra meet on a bridge named Waterloo Bridge. Not only does it imply that Roy and Myra will have a tragic ending, but also Myra dies on the bridge because of an accident. Their tragic ending is one of the largest indictments of war.

When Roy asked Myra whether she loved anyone, Myra answered, "I loved you, I've never loved anyone else. I never shall, that's the truth Roy, I never shall." It is no wonder that this dialogue makes the character impressed for romantic love. Actually love is like a classic movie. It is hard when love disappears if you really love someone. Maybe you cannot get married with the person whom you love because of some reason, but love will stay in your heart

Lady Lazarus

by Trang Huyen, Vietnam



Have you ever read a poem and tried to think about it? Watching a film based on that poem will help you understand it better. However, there will be a few differences between reading and watching. When you watch a movie, you can understand what happened. You will feel much better about your own emotions

through reading something that expresses that emotion. A poem is not simply words, but many emotions can merge in one sentence; The meaning of a poem is not necessarily exactly like what you read. Poems give us a colorful array of life, but it will be powerful if you can watch a film based on a poem.

Sylvia Plath was an American poet, novelist, and short story writer. Her father died when she was eight years old. This has had a big influence on her personality and her writing. "Lady Lazarus" (1932-1963) is one of her famous poem and was made into a short film. Highlights of this film are the similarity between the character and Plath's real life.

"And I a smiling woman

I'm only thirty

And like a cat I have nine times to die."

This verse tells us more about the character in the film as well as the author. "Lady Lazarus" begins by telling us: "I have done it again," so what is this "it?" She compare herself to a Holocaust victim, and she also tells us that she's only thirty years old; like a cat she has nine time to die, so she keeps returning to life

The author tells us about the first two times that she almost died, and says, "dying is an art." She's not afraid of death. She has always imagined that people

come and see her do it. In fact, it seems like she's performing a third death in front of a crowd at a circus or carnival.

One more time, the author compares herself to the victim of the Holocaust and says that she has been burned to death in a concentration camp cremation. In the end, she returns to life from death.

It would be difficult to understand if you just read poetry, but through the film, you can understand more about people's character and the author. The film gives us a sense of something, a little mysterious, but not completely so. Her life and what happened around the author had an effect on her writing. Besides that, this short film also makes the viewer curious about what will happen next.

After watching the film that is based on the poem; it will give us different feelings. But to feel the spirit of the poem and movie that is made by the author's love, we also need to put ourselves in the mood of the main character in the story.

Life is sometimes not as easy as we think. If you try to think more positive thoughts, with a goal that you set for yourself, and every morning when you wake up, try to think about what you should do in order to achieve that goal, it will change your life. Otherwise you're just sitting on a chair and spending your time accomplishing nothing. Like "Lady Lazarus" she envisioned her life in a completely different way. With a special ending, "Lady Lazarus," she returns to life from death, but what would happen if she dies again? It's your choice and your thoughts.

Twilight: Eclipse

by Abd Elrahman Al Odeh, Jordan



"Twilight" is a movie that has five episodes, and is based on a book by Stephanie Meyer. This movie looks amazing; at the same time there is a huge difference between the book and the movies. Also there are several things that I don't like. In addition, the movie is under the genres of both romance and fantasy. For illustration, I will talk a little bit about "Twilight: Eclipse" (the third episode) including a summary, what I like, and what I don't like in this movie.

Vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson) marries Bella (Kristen Stewart), a girl who wishes to be a vampire like him. They spend their honeymoon on a Brazilian island, and soon realize that

she's pregnant and her embryo has grown very fast. They finish their vacation and return to the house. They decide to get an abortion of the fetus after their discovery that the baby is a vampire, but then Bella refuses. The Volturi (the vampire world leaders) know about Bella and her embryo. They insist on killing Bella and her embryo, but the werewolf Jacob (Taylor Lautner) tries to protect her by separating from the werewolf family and joining

Edward and his family to protect Bella. Bella almost dies giving birth to a girl. Edward tries to give her life by changing her to a vampire because she will die if she doesn't change. She has told Edward many times to change her to a vampire. The Volturi know about Bella and her girl, and they decide to obtain the girl by doing the impossible. To be continued...

I do not know what to say about such a popular movie like "Twilight." It has a great end and interesting actors. "Twilight" has many things that are attractive to the audience— it combines romance, horror, fantasy, adventure, and action. The actors perform very well. I like the moment when Bella was dying, and Edward saves her life by changing her to a vampire. It was my favorite part, because I think that means there is hope in the life. She was so obstinate

by asking him to change her, but he didn't do it until he recognized that's the last thing he can do to save her.

If we talk about the visual side of the film, we find many images exaggerated and illogical. In one shot of the girl child (Ransma) she looks like a cartoon character. Hollywood should have made that more professional. Also, the filmmakers tried to make a love story in five parts, but I think they failed to deliver the significance for the audience. To illustrate, I think the company Pixar made several better romantic stories in short movies for less than ninety minutes. They used animation with their film. Pixar's film "Up" won an Oscar, because it was great directing. Instead of dragging out the plot with five different movies, they made a big impact on the audience right away.

High Intermediate Class Contest Winner: Forrest Gump

by Ae Kyoung Yang, South Korea



"Forrest Gump" (1994) was directed by Robert Zemeckis who directed "Romancing the Stone" (1984), "Back to the Future" (1985) and "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" (1988). This movie shows not only the dramatic life of Forrest Gump (Tom Hanks), but also the history of the United States between the 1950s and the 1980s. I could not take my eyes off this movie during the running time of 2 hours 22 minutes. I was fascinated by the unbelievable storyline and acting skill of the actors and actresses. I am convinced you will enjoy this movie so much.

Forrest, who has an IQ of 7, was teased when he was a schoolboy, but it was not an obstacle to him. There were many unimaginable things that happened to him. Particularly, I was impressed when he rescued comrades at the risk of his life in the Vietnam War. He won an honor and met the president. He was in several memorable situations of American history. These

scenes help to keep the movie interesting. He succeeded in whatever he wanted to do. This was not by fortune. This was by his honesty, sincerity, and conviction. He did not give up what he started, and finished successfully. I learned how to treat people who I meet and I work with by following how Forrest lived.

I thought about Forrest's mother (Sally Field) for a long time after I saw the movie. Her famous line is "Life is like a box of chocolates. Nobody can know what you have." She encouraged Forrest by saying, "You are not different than other people." She figured out how to raise her son who had intellectual disabilities into a billionaire. His amazing life was attributed to his mother's love. She was really a great mother. You can understand the role of parents through her.

In addition, there is another important person in Forrest's life – Jenny (Robin Wright), the only love that he'd ever known. Forrest met her on a school bus on the first day of school. She was the only person who was very kind to Forrest. Since then, they were best

friends, but Jenny's life was totally different from Forrest's life. It's also one of the interesting aspects in this movie.

I was impressed with Tom Hanks once again. He played the character of Forrest Gump very well. He analyzed characteristics of Forrest and acted perfectly as if he were Forrest. Tom Hanks won the Academy Award for the Best Actor category in this film. Another remarkable actor, Gary Sinise who played the character of Lt. Dan Taylor, was very splendid. He showed a variety of emotions in this movie. Sally Field and Robin Wright are also veteran actresses.

I know why this movie is called a masterpiece. This movie shows that doing one's best in every moment and being kind and sincere are more important than being intelligent. I recommend "Forrest Gump" to people who would like to live a normal life with integrity. Also, I am sure that you can understand the value of sincere life through this film

The Sixth Sense

by Joon Won Seo, South Korea



Since I was young, I have preferred mystery or thriller genre to romantic or family movies. But that doesn't mean I hate lovely and comic movies. I just feel more drawn to movies that have a dark mood. I think that

thriller movies' biggest advantage is making deep lingering imagery and making people think about it. Even if it is sensational or tabloidy, it is good enough for implanting a strong impression. "The Sixth Sense" is my favorite thriller movie among others and is considered as classic as ever. It has been many years, but it is still fresh.

Malcolm Crowe is a famous child psychologist, but he exaggerates his own importance. One day, an old patient who was treated for psychological sickness by Malcolm came to Malcolm's house, shot him, and killed himself.

The next year, Malcolm takes charge of Cole Sear's mental counseling. Cole Sear is 8 years old and left in a state of shock because he can see dead people. Dead people come to him and complain of an injustice. Malcolm detects that there are many parallels between Cole and his old patient. Malcolm helps Cole with his whole heart because he wants to erase his guilty feeling that he treated his old patient insincerely.

Over time, Cole starts to trust Malcolm. Cole confesses that he not only sees dead people, but also can talk with dead people. Malcolm has doubts but he digs into the inside details of his case. Meanwhile, Malcolm encounters his own private crisis. His wife was just nostalgically reliving the good old days with Malcolm by watching her wedding video. Now she doesn't talk with Malcolm anymore and is having an affair with a young guy. Malcolm feels sorry about his wife but he cannot care for her because of his work.

Malcolm finds Cole's solution. Cole starts to communicate with dead people and listen to their story. And then he and Malcolm help them solve their problems. Cole's health is gradually improving. Later, he overcomes his problem and is appreciative of Malcolm.

Malcolm goes back to his home. His wife is sleeping and talking in her sleep, saying, "I miss you, Malcolm." At that moment, he recognizes that his ring is gone from his finger. And he notices that his room is locked. His wife is blowing cold breath and Malcolm realizes that he is dead.

"The Sixth Sense" was released in 1999. M. Night Shyamalan who is the movie director, gained a reputation for reversal endings. This movie made M. Night Shyamalan a genius, but his sequels weren't as popular because his first work is so strong.

"The Sixth Sense" is reversal. Reversal is "The Sixth Sense," which means that this movie plays a large role in informing the reversal genre which is unusually popular to people. And it has a tense flow. Although it is sometimes a bit staid by story progress, the boredom doesn't last long. "The Sixth Sense" is a work that pushes boredom by using only detective form. I think no movie can match this reversal story.

Many movies have been compared to "The Sixth Sense" unwillingly and have been depreciated even though they are good movies. It was the same for Shyamalan. His next films were compared to "The Sixth Sense" surely. "The Sixth Sense" was the best thriller and made him successful, but that also leaves him under great pressure to make his next film. It is a pitiful situation.

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IS A PUBLICATION OF THE ADVANCED WRITING CLASS AT CELAC.

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Have a great summer!

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