



ENGSKYPE Lessons

Watching + Speaking lesson

Topic: *Gladiator*

We mortals are but shadows and dust. Shadows and dust.

1) Warm-up

- 1) Is the film *Gladiator* a true story?
- 2) Who are the main characters of the movie?
- 3) What are the main topics covered in the movie?
- 4) Why was *Gladiator* called by critics one of the greatest movies?



Pre-watching tasks

- 2) **Read and discuss the following quotations.
What characters do they belong to?**

"What we do in life echoes in eternity."

"Sometimes I do what I want to do. The rest of the time, I do what I have to."

"I don't pretend to be a man of the people. But I do try to be a man for the people."

"Am I not merciful?"

3) Key words: fill the gaps in the sentences using the words from the article

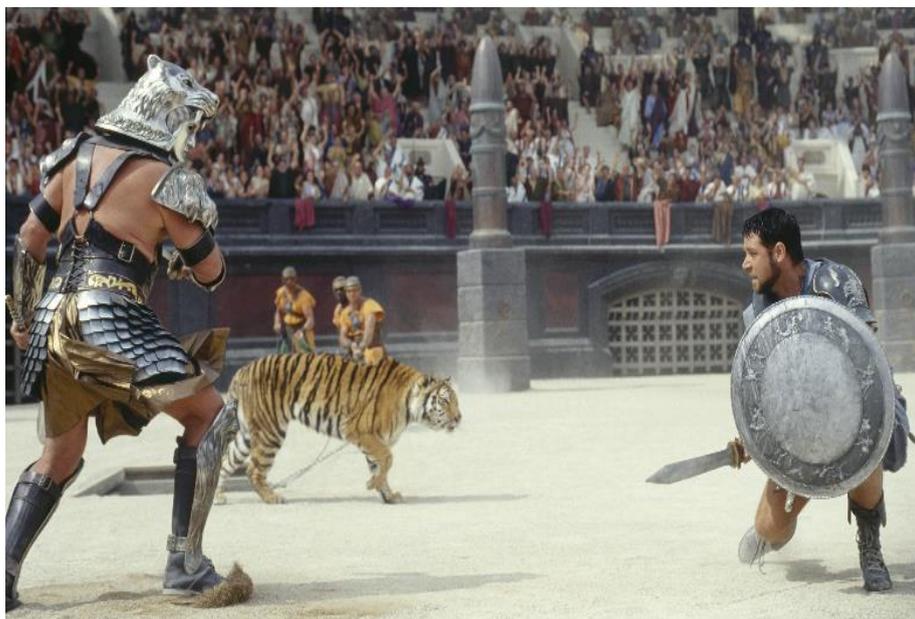
To reward, duty, vengeance, to entertain

- a) _____ is a responsibility
- b) _____ is a revenge
- c) _____ is to make a gift to someone in recognition of their service
- d) To _____ is to amuse someone

Watching

4) Watch the trailer with the subtitles:

Gladiator trailer



<http://amara.org/ru/videos/uGIDHIpceCQz/info/gladiator-trailer-official-2014-trailer-hd/>

Transcript:

How can I reward Rome's greatest general?
Let me go home.
There is one more duty that I ask of you before you go home.
My powers will pass to Maximus.
Take my hand. I only offer it once.
Father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife.
I will have my vengeance, in this life or the next.
Gladiators! I salute you.
Are you not entertained? Are you not entertained?
This is why you are here

5) Comprehension check

(based on the movie *Gladiator*, but not one the trailer!)

- a) Who was Maximus fighting with in the beginning of the movie?
- b) Why did Commodus kill his father?
- c) Why did Lucilla support her brother?
- d) Why was Proximo trying to help Maximus?

6) Read the article and explain the meaning of the highlighted words and expressions:

What was Commodus really like?

If the ancient sources Commodus was even more **bizarre** in real life than he was in the film. Indeed, some historians even question his **sanity**.

He renamed Rome Colonia Commodiana, the "Colony of Commodus", and renamed the months of the year after titles held **in his honour**. The Senate was renamed the Comodian Fortunate Senate, and the Roman people were given the name Comodianus.

Commodus fought as a gladiator. The historian Herodian wrote that "in his gladiatorial combats, he **defeated** his opponents with ease, and he did no more than wound them, since they all submitted to him, but only because they knew he was the emperor, not because he was truly a gladiator."

Post reading activities

7) Read the facts about the movie

1. Mel Gibson was offered the role of Maximus, but he turned down the part.
2. Oliver Reed (Proximo) suffered a fatal heart attack during the movie shooting. The film is dedicated to his memory.
3. The film had surpassed its \$103,000,000 budget within 2 weeks of release.
4. Only a part of the Colosseum was real, the rest was computer-generated imagery.

Keys:

3)

- a) Duty
- b) Vengeance
- c) To reward
- d) To entertain

5)

- a) He was fighting with German tribes.
- b) To get power and to become the new Emperor
- c) She was afraid that he might kill her child Lucius.
- d) Because he was grateful to the old Emperor who gave him freedom.

6)

Bizarre– strange, weird

Sanity– normal mental health

In someone's honour – showing respect to someone

To defeat – to win a victory



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