

Movies & Languages 2012-2013

Hugo Cabret

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Martin Scorsese
YEAR / COUNTRY	2011 / USA
GENRE	Adventure
ACTORS	Ben Kingsley, Sacha Baron Cohen, Asa Butterfield, Chloe Moretz, Ray Winstone



PLOT

This film is based on the book "*Welcome to the Inventions of Hugo Cabret*" by Brian Selznick which is a story about the orphan, clock keeper, and thief Hugo, who lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. A gloriously heart wrenching film brilliantly epitomizing time and change displaying how very precious every moment is. The magic of this movie is about time within time. It is about how time can be suspended, but never stopping. It is also about how it remains constant, but eternal and how ideas are immortalized through dreams and making them reality. It reminds us to take the time for remembrances of things past and there is a time for happiness. Scorsese's intricacies and close attention to detail actually take us into a different time and place where we, the viewers, can actually experience a reality different than our own. The director successfully depicts a deep and meaningful, soft, tender and painfully sweet reality as seen through the eyes of a child and through actual film footage of Marie. Georges-Jean Méliès who was a French illusionist and filmmaker famous for leading many technical and narrative developments in the earliest days of cinema. He was a prolific innovator in the use of special effects and hand-painted color in his work. Because of his ability to seemingly manipulate and transform reality through cinematography, Méliès is sometimes referred to as the first "Cinemagician".

LANGUAGE

This film is very rich in vocabulary eloquently spoken in "proper English" delivered by the main characters combined with east London and cockney accents from the supporting actors.

GRAMMAR

Participles and gerunds

We can use -ing forms (e.g. *smoking, walking*) not only as verbs, but also like adjectives or nouns.

Compare:

You're **smoking** too much these days (verb: part of the present progressive)

There was a **smoking** cigarette end in the ashtray (adjective describing cigarette end)

Smoking is bad for you (noun: subject of sentence)

When -ing forms are used as verbs or adjectives, they are often called "present participles". This is not a very suitable name, because these forms can refer to the past, present or future.

When they are used more like nouns they are called "gerunds".

VOCABULARY

Automaton: a self-operating machine sometimes used to describe an old-fashioned robot	Brewing coffee: hot water acts as a solvent, washing the soluble solids out of the ground coffee beans
Bark: the sharp sound a dog makes	Clockwork: the inner working of either a mechanical clock or a device that operates in a similar fashion
Earn: to acquire or deserve as a result of effort or action	Exposed: not shielded or protected
Enigmatic: difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious	Figure out: discover, determine, resolve
To fix: to repair	Growl: the low, guttural, menacing sound made by an animal
Malediction: the calling down of a curse	Handbill: a small printed notice for distribution
Mitts: slang for hands	Pilferer: a thief
Plunder: to rob or seize wrongfully by force	Intrepid: courageous, fearless
Steadfast: resolutely or dutifully firm and unwavering in loyalty	To wind: to coil the spring of a mechanism by turning a stem or key
Repromate (slang): an excessive lad. Mainly used as ironic praise	Urchin: a mischievous and often poor and raggedly clothed street youngster
Cruel: causing pain or suffering	Daunting: tending to overwhelm or intimidate
Urchin: a mischievous and often poor and raggedly clothed street youngster	