

the smart kids guide to
Classic Hollywood

from the creators of the classic hollywood blog

Copyright © 2015 Daryle Ann Hunt & Rochelle LeMaster

www.classichollywoodproject.wordpress.com

All rights reserved.

ISBN-13: 978-1517094546

ISBN-10: 1517094542

DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to our families who had to while away many an hour while we watched old movies to maintain the Classic Hollywood blog, and to the smart kids who will be successful in life, having learned life's lessons through old films.

CONTENTS

	Introduction	i
1	The Essentials	1
2	The Big Guys	28
3	Fashionistas	56
4	I Need a Hero	84
5	Smart Kids	112
6	Movie List	140

CONTENTS

Chapter 1: THE ESSENTIALS *Films that Teach You about Life*

It Happened One Night

My Man Godfrey

Bringing Up Baby

Wizard of Oz

Gone with the Wind

Chapter 2: THE BIG GUYS *Films Directed by the Best Guys in the Business*

My Favorite Wife

Reap the Wild Wind

Meet Me in St. Louis

Anchors Aweigh

Romance on the High Seas

Chapter 3: FASHIONISTAS *The Best Dressed Women in Hollywood*

The Gay Divorcee

The Thin Man

The Lady Eve

It Started with Eve

The Major and the Minor

Classic Hollywood Project

Chapter 4: I NEED A HERO *Lessons in How to Save the Day*

Mr. Deeds goes to Town

Adventures of Robin Hood

Mark of Zorro

The Black Swan

The Three Musketeers

Chapter 5: SMART KIDS *Kids Know Best*

Three Smart Girls

Dead End

The Little Princess

National Velvet

Life with Father

INTRODUCTION

Here you will find twenty-five of the best Classic Hollywood films. Did you know there was a time when films could only be made in Black and White? People were so frustrated with not being able to film in color that sometimes they even painted the actual reel of film. You'll notice this in *The Phantom of the Opera* (1923 Universal), which is a little scary but totally worth watching just to see the Phantom's bright red cape as he jumps onto the roof at the end of the film.

Getting sound on film was pretty tough too and actors would often have to act the whole movie out, and then go back and record their lines later. Movies without sound were called "Silents" and movies with sound were called "Talkies." To see how they got sound on film, check out a movie called *Singing in the Rain* (MGM 1952).

Now that you know a little about how films used to be made, let's talk about how to use this book. Each film has stats, like a baseball card, that will tell you title, studio, director, and cast. We tell you why to watch it and even have a *Danger, Danger* section that explains those trivia tidbits like strange laws or weird sayings that make the movie extra cool. And if you need to fill a rainy afternoon the *Just for Fun* section gives you an activity, project or experiment. Get ready to be a Movie Genius!

CHAPTER 1 ~ THE ESSENTIALS

The word essential means absolutely necessary. These films are the most important in your Classic Hollywood movie education. When people talk about old movies, these are the ones they talk about. If you watch these you will be able to impress the grown-ups and understand life a little better.



TITLE: It Happened One Night

STUDIO: Columbia
1934 (Black & White 105 min.)

LEAD ACTORS: Clark Gable, Claudette Colbert

SUPPORTING ACTORS: Walter Connolly, Roscoe Karns

HOW TO WATCH: With a bowl of raw carrot sticks.

THE STORY: When Ellie Andrews runs away her father puts up a reward for the person who can catch her first. And when newspaper man Peter Warne finds he can get the money and an exclusive newspaper story out of it, he befriends her on the bus traveling to New York City. After all, he doesn't mind turning her in, she is just a rich spoiled heiress, and he needs a story. But after days of outrunning her father, the press, and all those other guys' hungry for the reward, he begins to have a change of heart. Some romantic times hitchhiking, eating carrots, and pretending to be married, makes Peter think he's ready for the real thing. But what will Ellie do when she finds out he's just a newspaperman who just wants the money and a story?

WHY IT'S GOOD: This was the first movie to win all five major Oscars; Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Directing, Best Writing.

DANGER DANGER: Hitchhiking used to be less dangerous than it is today, and was somewhat of an art. Claudette was the first to show her leg to stop a car and you will see the same action done in almost every movie made since then that has a hitchhiking scene. But why is everyone rushing to the phone booth? Newspapers would fight over who would get, then print, the story first. In most old movies when a story breaks you will see

HOOK: Ellie is running away from her rich father. Peter needs to write a sensational story for his newspaper. Ellie's father has offered ten thousand dollars to the first guy that finds her. Ready, Set, Go!

lots of reporters all bolt for the nearest telephone booth so that they could call the story in to their editors.

JUST FOR FUN: Make an Indoor Tent

Things you'll need:

A sheet, rope(jump rope),two chairs from the dining room or kitchen table, pillows, blanket, flashlight; where? This activity is best done in the living room, or in an open space in your home.

How?

To make a tent and hiding place of your own:

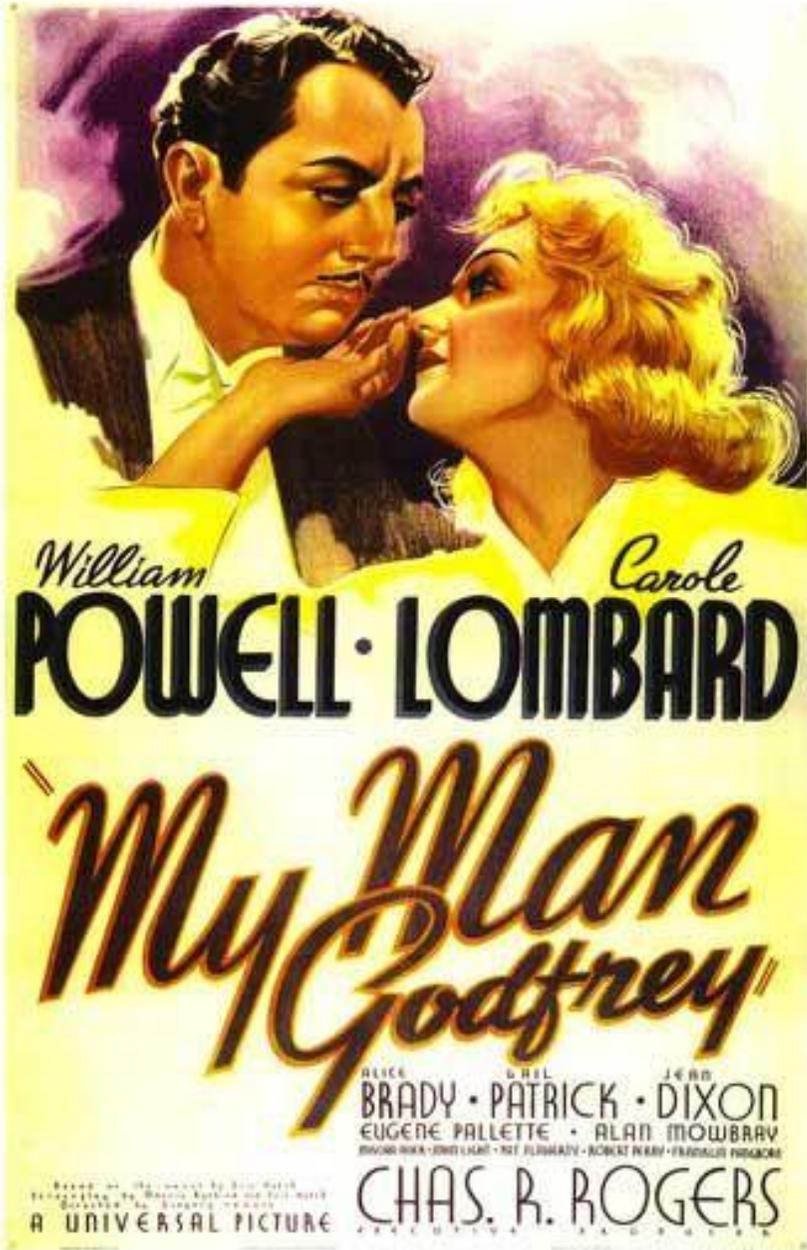
1. Tie the rope to two chairs or tie the sheet to two chair backs, if you don't have a rope.
2. Drape the sheet over the rope (just like they do in the movie)
3. Fill the inside of your tent with pillows and blankets

You can get books, snacks, anything you want to make your own private campout. And it may be dark in there so don't forget that flashlight!

READ ALL ABOUT IT: In the old days film stars worked for movie studios like people work for companies. They could only be at one place at a time and if another company wanted them they would have to pay! Columbia Studio borrowed actors that were under contract from other studios; Clark Gable was from MGM, Claudette Colbert was from Paramount, Alan Hale that sings the song 'Hitchhiking on the Highway of Love' was from Warner Brothers.

EXTRA EXTRA:

Claudette Colbert only liked to be filmed from the left side profile. Can you spot a scene where she is filmed from her right side?



TITLE: My Man Godfrey

STUDIO: Universal
1936(Black & White 95 min.)

LEAD ACTORS: Carole Lombard,
William Powell

SUPPORTING ACTORS: Eugene
Pallette, Alice Brady, Gail Patrick Mischa
Auer

DIRECTED BY: Gregory La Cava

HOW TO WATCH: With some nice
properly-butled tea and cookies set up on a
nice shiny tray.

THE STORY: When the rich decide to have a scavenger hunt in search of the 'forgotten man', and they find Godfrey, a homeless man living down by the river, Irene is determined to beat out her sister, Cornelia, and return with him first. But after Irene wins the game, she realizes she doesn't want to let go of her winning prize-Godfrey, so she chooses to employ the poor man as a butler in her home. And while he is more than happy to have a roof over his head, he's keen to leave his past a secret. The sister, Cornelia, however, wants nothing more than to prove her belief that he's a crook and a thief. While Irene tries to figure out her feelings for the man she just hired, and Godfrey tries to dodge Cornelia and all her plans to destroy him, our forgotten man soon finds that making the best of the situation may be the only answer. But opportunities seem to pop up in the most unusual places, even if it does happen to be at the dump, where he used to live, down by the river.

HOOK: Dueling sisters, Irene and Cornelia, are determined to marry, and take down their suspicious butler Godfrey. Now if only they could get that guy acting like a monkey out of the living room, and that horse out of the library!

WHY IT'S GOOD: The official slapstick comedy of the decade, My Man Godfrey combines a look at the serious issue of homelessness, and the frivolity of the upper class during the Great Depression.

DANGER DANGER: Mrs. Bullock does not actually see pixies or hear them the morning following the scavenger hunt; she is simply recovering from drinking too much.

Never bring a horse into the house if you can help it, because there will be a big 'ol mess for you to clean up when they have to go to the bathroom.

Godfrey uses the word- proprieties, which is “an awareness of what is and isn't proper”. For instance, it isn't proper to kiss your butler.

JUST FOR FUN: Make your Own Scavenger Hunt!

Rules: A Scavenger Hunt is a little like a Treasure Hunt. In a Treasure Hunt you try to find something you want. In a Scavenger Hunt you try to find lots of things for the fun of finding!

Things you'll need:

Paper

Your Brain!

Pencil

A Prize! (Candy is always good)

You can drag this game out at all your family parties! The first one to name all of the objects wins!

1. Make a list of items to search for and copy the list for as many people as you have to play the game.
2. Set a time limit.

The Smart Kids Guide to Classic Hollywood

3. Go! First one back with the list of all the items, and where they were hidden, wins.

EXTRA EXTRA: Quotes

"Why did I have to wait until now to find out there is insanity on your father's side of the family."

"All you need to start an asylum is an empty room and the right kind of people"

"If you're going to be rude to my daughter, you might as well at least take your hat off!"

Irene: Can you butle?

Godfrey: Butle?

Irene: Yes, we're fresh out of butlers. The one we had left this morning.

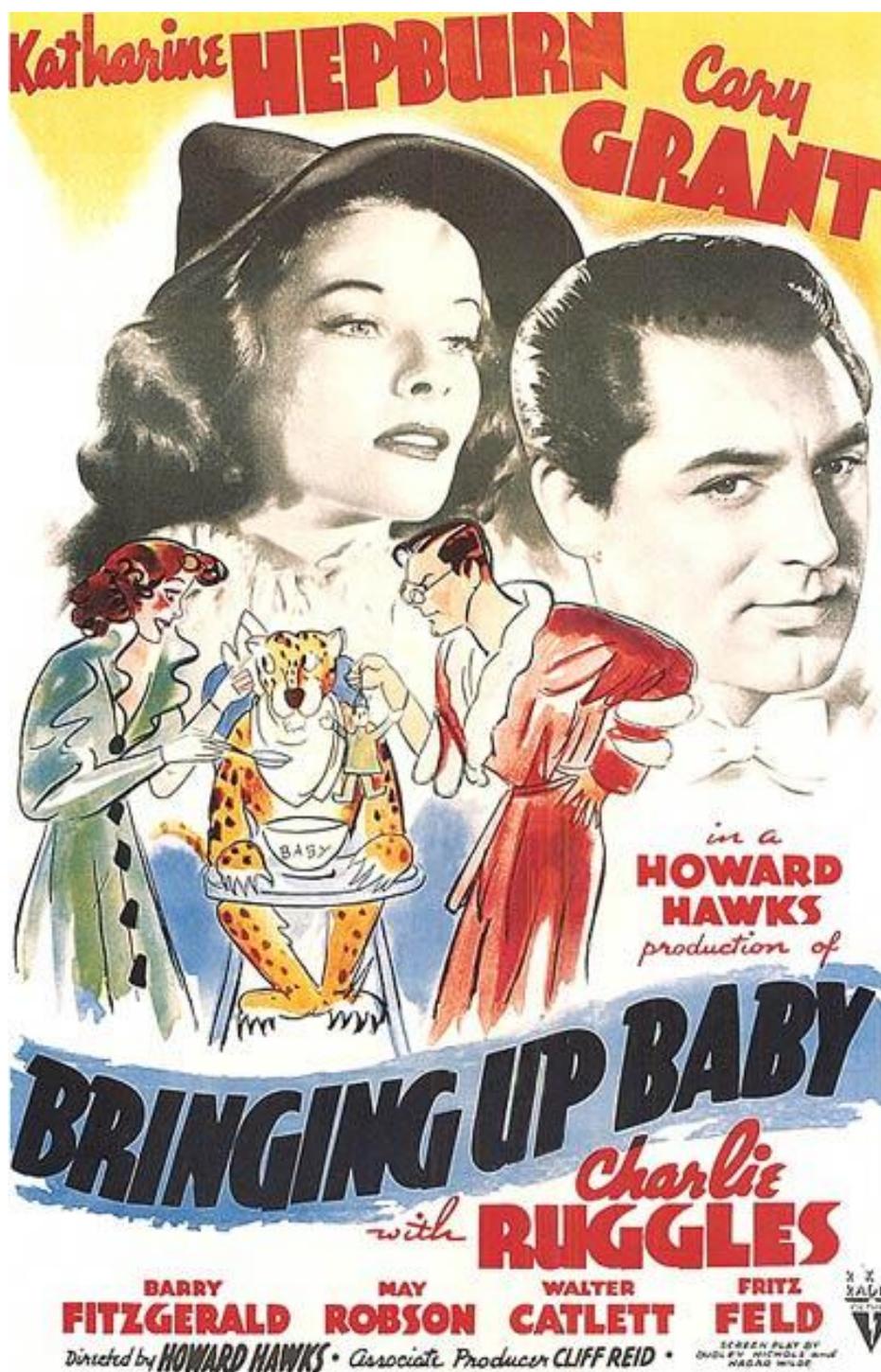
Godfrey: Opportunity is just around the corner.

Mike Flaherty: Yeah, it's been there a long time. I wish I knew which corner.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Trivia ~ My Man Godfrey was selected for preservation by the national film registry in 1999 being referred to as culturally significant by the United States Library of Congress.

William Powell and Carole Lombard were at one time married, and had been divorced for three years before they made this film together. Powell was noted as saying that no one but Carole could pull off the role of Irene, rationalizing that the relationship between them in real life, wasn't much different than the one they portray on screen in My Man Godfrey.

It was the first film to receive nominations in all four acting categories, and lose them all. Actor: William Powell, Actress: Carole Lombard, Supporting Actor: Mischa Auer, Supporting Actress: Alice Brady



TITLE: Bringing Up Baby

STUDIO: RKO

1938 (Black & White 101 min.)

LEAD ACTORS: Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant

SUPPORTING ACTORS: May Robson, Charlie Ruggles, and Asta as George the Dog.

DIRECTED BY: Howard Hawks

HOOK: David is clean, neat, and has a dinosaur bone. Susan is slightly crazy, pushy, and has a leopard.

HOW TO WATCH: with a cozy stuffed animal, a frilly robe, a Chinese hat, and a yippy dog.

THE STORY: David is an archaeologist who's been entrusted with the important job of taking care of a priceless dinosaur bone with the hopes of getting a million dollars for his museum. Susan's a girl who just realized she sort of likes David, even though he is engaged to someone else. Susan is also a girl with a leopard and in order to keep David from marrying that other girl she tricks him into coming over to "save" her. But Baby, the leopard, is harmless. Of course that doesn't get David out of this mess and before he knows it he is in Connecticut at Susan's with her dog George and the bone has disappeared. Focusing on having George dig up everything he has ever buried in order to find the bone, they don't even see that Baby has escaped. And when David and Susan stumble across a lost circus truck carrying a nasty untame leopard they assume it is the zoo truck having captured Baby. What else can they do but help Baby escape! Bad move.

WHY IT'S GOOD: Because you can't stop laughing and laughing and laughing. Of course, it's also a great introduction to two of Hollywood's brightest stars; Katherine Hepburn and Cary Grant.

DANGER DANGER: Big game hunters hunted large animals like

elephants, rhinos, lions, leopards and other big animals. Today this is absolutely 100% illegal. It is not a good idea to keep a leopard as a pet. In the film, where it looks like Baby whose real name is Nissa, is roaming around in Susan's bedroom, the scene was actually filmed by camera and sound men, who were sitting in a nearby cage.

JUST FOR FUN: Learn how to Tie a Slip Knot, just like the Major, in order to catch any stray leopards that cross your path!

Things you'll need: Rope

1. Lay the rope flat. Bring the top end of the rope, circled down to the center of the rope, so that it lays perpendicular. Now do the same thing with the bottom of the rope, bringing that up onto the center of the rope as well, but circling the rope the opposite way in which you circled the top. With a circle on both sides, and the ends laying parallel to each other, but perpendicular to the vertical piece of rope, you are now ready.
2. In order to have the knot slip, you fold the right-hand loop towards the center and pass it through the left loop.
3. Pull on the loop, and then with your other hand, tie the knot around the loop.
4. Once you have something to tie up(a leopard, or something important from your little brothers room) wrap the loop around the object, and pull the main length of the rope to tighten it.

EXTRA EXTRA: 'Now it isn't that I don't like you Susan, because after all, in moments of quiet I'm strangely drawn to you...but there haven't been any quiet moments...'

'Our relationship has been a series of misadventures from beginning to end.'

READ ALL ABOUT IT: George the dog in *Bringing up Baby* was a wire haired terrier. That breed had the inimitable spirit people during the Great Depression hoped to find in themselves during hard times. George's real name was Asta and was famous for appearing in all five of 'The Thin Man' movies made at MGM studios.

METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER'S TECHNICOLOR TRIUMPH!

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD...
THE WONDERFUL...

WIZARD OF OZ

WITH
Judy GARLAND • Frank MORGAN
Ray BOLGER, Bert LAHR, Jack HALEY
Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton
Charley Grapewin and the Munchkins

Directed by Victor Fleming Produced by Mervyn Le Roy

BIGGEST SENSATION SINCE "SNOW WHITE"

FOR GENERAL EXHIBITION

Songs..
"Over the Rainbow,"
"If I Only had a Brain,"
"We're off to see the Wizard,"
"The Merry Old Land of Oz,"
"Ding Dong,"
"If I were King of the Forest"

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer PICTURE

The poster features a central illustration of the five main characters: Judy Garland as Dorothy, Frank Morgan as Uncle Henry, Ray Bolger as the Cowardly Lion, Bert Lahr as the Tin Man, and Jack Haley as the Scarecrow. Below them, a musical staff with notes curves across the page. To the left, smaller illustrations show the Scarecrow, Tin Man, Dorothy, and the Wicked Witch. At the bottom, the Wicked Witch, Cowardly Lion, and Scarecrow are depicted. A blue triangle on the right contains the text 'FOR GENERAL EXHIBITION'. A red banner at the bottom left reads 'BIGGEST SENSATION SINCE "SNOW WHITE"'. A white box on the bottom right lists the film's songs. The Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer logo is at the bottom center.

TITLE: **The Wizard of Oz**

STUDIO: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer(MGM)
1939 (Black & White & Color 101 Min.)

LEAD ACTOR: Judy Garland

SUPPORTING ACTORS: Margaret Hamilton, Clara Blandick, Charley Grapewin, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan, Billie Burke, and Terry the Dog as Toto

DIRECTED BY: Victor Fleming, King Vidor, George Cukor(fill in Director).

HOW TO WATCH: Snuggled up on the couch with your favorite pet or favorite stuffed animals; with a glass of water nearby, in case of a 'wicked witch' emergency, and a dish of rainbow sherbet ice cream.

THE STORY: Dorothy, Toto's owner wants sympathy from her Auntie Em, for what has happened to Toto. However Auntie Em is busy trying to save the baby chicks when the chick incubator goes bad. Dorothy then turns to the three farm hands for help. Zeke tells her to get some courage to confront Miss Gulch. Hunk tells her to use her brains and not ride by Miss Gulch's house everyday with toto- its too tempting for him. Hickory well he tinkers too much, jabber-whapping with Hunk, Zeke, and Dorothy dreaming of someday having a statue erected in his honor. No nonsense Auntie Em tells Dorothy to stop imagining things, help them out, and find herself a place where she won't get into any trouble. Dorothy asks Toto if such a place exists; 'Somewhere you can't get to by a boat or a train, somewhere beyond the Moon, beyond the rain.' Then that darn twister hits, and they end up in the Land of Oz. And that's when the real adventure begins just like it sometimes does in real life, 'Somewhere Over a Rainbow'.

HOOK:

Toto has gotten on Elvira Gulch's last nerve. Of course he probably shouldn't have gotten into her garden, or chased her cat, but hey- what else is there to do in Kansas?

WHY IT'S GOOD: it was nominated for Best Picture, Art Direction, Special effects, Music (Over the Rainbow)*, and original Music Score*. The *asterisks won, plus Judy Garland received a Special Award for Outstanding Performance as a Juvenile Actor and received a miniature statuette.

DANGER DANGER: Rules to Live by: Running away from home never solves anything. Never walk on the fence separating pig pens if you are visiting a farm; no matter how cute piglets are; pigs are dangerous.

JUST FOR FUN: Make a Twister in a Bottle

Things you'll need:

1. Water
2. Two 2-liter bottles
3. Cardboard
4. Pencil or pen
5. Scissors
6. Tape

Step 1: Pour water into a 2-liter plastic bottle until it is about three-quarters full.

Step 2: Use a pen to trace around the bottle's opening on a piece of cardboard, and cut out that circle. Then cut a 1/4-inch hole in the center of the circle.

Step 3: Place the cardboard circle on top of your water bottle's opening.

Step 4: Turn the second 2-liter bottle upside down, and tape the two bottles together, top to top.

Step 5: Wrap the bottle necks with tape so the connection doesn't leak.

Step 6: Flip the bottles so the bottle of water is upside-down on top.

Step 7: With one hand, hold the bottom bottle to steady it. With the other

hand, begin moving the top bottle in a circle.

Step 8: Watch what happens. You'll see a tornado in a bottle.

EXTRA EXTRA: Suggested reading ~ 'I, Toto' the autobiography of Terry the Dog that was Toto, written by: Willard Carroll. A tell all book with a lot of trivia, pictures and stories about his experiences in making the movie.

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Quotes; there are so many quotes from this movie that we use in today's world we'll only list a few;

'Toto, I have a feeling we aren't in Kansas anymore',

'If I only had a brain',

'Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, Oh My'.

I'll get you my pretty... and your little dog too!, 'I'm melting...I'm melting'.



TITLE: Gone With the Wind

STUDIO: Selznick International Pictures 1939 (Technicolor 220 min.)

LEAD ACTORS: Vivien Leigh, Clark Gable

SUPPORTING ACTORS: Hattie McDaniel, Olivia de Havilland, Leslie Howard, Thomas Mitchell, Harry Davenport

DIRECTED BY: Screen Credited Director Victor Fleming

Un-Credited Directors: George Cukor, Sam Wood

HOW TO WATCH: with a cool glass of water with lemon, or any summery drink, and a box of tissues for the end.

THE STORY: When Scarlett learns that Ashley has chosen the wishy washy, goody two shoes Melanie to marry, she just can't understand it. Doesn't he love Scarlett? With this bad news Scarlett's day only gets worse when she learns that the country is going to war and the dance gets cancelled.

All the older boys in the county are going off to war and since Scarlett doesn't really know what to do she marries Melanie's brother. Unfortunately with war comes sickness, and death, and fighting, and her house is taken over by soldiers, and Scarlett has to deliver Melanie's baby, and Ashley's house is burned down, and everything just seems to go wrong. And if that wasn't bad enough, why does that annoying know-it-all Rhett Butler keep showing up? You'd think he would have the decency to let Scarlett ruin her life in private!

WHY IT'S GOOD: *Gone with the Wind* was the first book written by author Margaret Mitchell in 1936; she won a Pulitzer Prize for this book. The book was made into a movie in 1939. The movie received Academy Awards for: Best Picture, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Directing, Film Editing, Art Direction, Best Screenplay, Color Cinematography.

Hattie McDaniel was the first African American to be presented with a Best Supporting Actress award. She was ostracized by some of her peers for the roles she played in movies. She once said she would rather play a maid in the movies than to be a maid.

HOOK: Sixteen year old Scarlet O'Hara, the oldest of three sisters, is about to attend her first barbeque and dance of the season. She can't wait! She's in love with the boy next door, an older boy named Ashley. With big plans to declare her love for him at the barbeque, she really doesn't know what to do, when she finds out he's going to marry someone else. Ughhh.

DANGER DANGER: There are two sides to every story. Study, study, study, we must learn from our past in order to make for a better future.

JUST FOR FUN: Watch a Sweet Potato grow in water.

Things you'll need

1 sweet potato (unpeeled)

4 wooden toothpicks

Drinking glass approved by parent or guardian

1. Insert four toothpicks opposite from each other in the center of the potato. (Half of the potato will be in the water of the drinking glass held up by the toothpicks).
2. Fill the glass half full of water. Set the potato in the water with the toothpicks resting on the rim of the glass.
3. Let it set on the kitchen counter out of the way
4. Roots and sprouts will start growing within a week to 10 days.
5. Water should be changed daily.
6. You can watch the roots and top sprouts grow until it's time to move on to another fun thing to do.

EXTRA EXTRA: Quotes; "Fiddle Dee Dee, Tomorrow is Another Day!" Scarlett, 'A House Divided Cannot Stand' Abraham Lincoln

READ ALL ABOUT IT: Vivien Leigh and Olivia de Havilland were both very British actresses and had to have a speech coach to teach them how to speak with a southern aristocratic accent.

Thanks for Reading Chapter One!

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Daryle Ann Hunt and Rochelle LeMaster are Classic Hollywood enthusiasts, reviewers and critics. Together they have created The Classic Hollywood Blog which launched in 2009 and can be found at www.classichollywoodproject.wordpress.com.