

Moving Pictures

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Answer: **BLADE**

Step 1. This puzzle is a rebus dropquote. You have to figure out how to construct a rebus by dropping the three pictures in each column into the three spaces below in some order. Doing so correctly yields the following rebuses:

Rebus #	Rebus
1	MORK + PHI + HALL + FETUS - KILT - HALF CHAIR - HAIR + HOTEL + BLOUSE - HOBO - CUE NEURON - URN PHOTO - PHO FLARE + PEEL - LAPEL CHAINS - CAN WHEEL - HEEL + HAT
2	CAN + MAC + DIAL - CANAL + BROOM + KID - BOOK BRAIN - BRA BARREL - BAR + TURNIP - LIP COFFIN - FIN + LOG - CLOG THRONE - RON JEEP + DIE + CAPE - CAP - EPEE
3	PEW + HEARSE - PEAS HANGER + DEBATE - HAND - BAT + ANGLE - EAGLE FLASH + GOAT - FLAG + CORN - ACORN BRANCH - RANCH + POD + DAIRY - PAIR INDIANA - DIANA CLUB + EAR - BAR
4	LASSO + TAP - SOAP SNAIL + MOUSE - SILO - US SOFA + LUTE - SALUTE POTHOLE - POOL PITA + NOON - TON BRACE + AT + DRESS - BREAD CAN + SHOE + ALLEY - SEA - CANE
5	MOTH + URN + KEY - MONKEY + MAN SUN + DAISY - SUNDAY WHEAT + MU - EMU PINTO - PIN STAR + NET - ANT + EMP + INK - MINK CAIRN - CAR PROW + LIME - OWL

Step 2. Solve the rebuses using standard rebus operations. That is, perform all operations from left to right, treat “+” as concatenation, and treat “-” as removing all the letters in the word on the right from the string on the left. Remove the letters of the subtracted word one at a time, always choosing the leftmost remaining letter that comes after the previously removed letter.

For instance, consider the hypothetical rebus ABCDABCDABCD – CAD. First, we remove the leftmost C, then the leftmost A that comes after that C, then the leftmost D that comes after that A. This leaves ABDBCABCD.

Evaluating the rebuses yields:

Rebus #	Rebus result
1	MORPHEUS TELLS NEO TO FREE HIS WHAT (4)
2	MCDIARMID IN RETURN OF THE JEDI (7)
3	WHERE GREEN SHOT BODDY IN CLUE (4)
4	LAST NAME OF THE PIANO ACTRESS HOLLY (6)
5	THURMAN IS WHAT TO STREEP IN PRIME (7)

Step 3. Answer the movie trivia question posed by each rebus result. The number in parentheses at the end of the rebus indicates the answer length. The answers are **MIND, EMPEROR, HALL, HUNTER, PATIENT.**

Step 4. Recognize that each of these words is the second word in the title of a two-word Academy Award-winning movie, not counting initial articles like “A” or “The”. The first words of these movie titles are **BEAUTIFUL, LAST, ANNIE, DEER, ENGLISH.**

Step 5. Read the first letters of these words to get the answer, **BLADE.** Fittingly, this too is a movie.