

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ The Academy Awards is an event held every year to honor the people who work in movies. It is run by a group called the Academy, whose goal is to promote advancements in film. There are award categories for actors, directors, and writers. Awards are also handed out in categories such as costume design and sound effects. All of these awards are presented in a spectacular show held in Hollywood. It is perhaps the biggest night of the year for celebrities, and millions watch the show live on television.

The awards show has changed a great deal over the years. The first Academy Awards event was held in 1929 in a hotel ballroom in Hollywood. The event was a private dinner, and there were only 270 people in attendance. When the awards were handed out, there were very few surprises because the winners had been announced three months earlier. Today, award winners are kept secret until the night of the event, when they are revealed live to the audience.

Each Academy Award winner receives an award called an Oscar: a small golden statue of a knight standing on top of a film reel. No one is sure where the statue got its name. The most popular theory is that a woman who worked at the Academy once said it looked like her Uncle Oscar. Wherever the name came from, it has stuck. The Academy Awards are often called the Oscars.

The Academy Awards can change from year to year as award categories are added or dropped. No matter how the event changes, however, you can always count on it taking place. It has never once been canceled. As they say in show business, “The show must go on.”