

TO: Parents of Students in Dr. Neufeld's History Classes  
FROM: Dr. Neufeld  
RE: "The Gladiators"  
DATE: Fri., Sept. 28, 2018



As we approach the end of Chapter 2 which is about the rise and fall of the Roman Empire, I would like to share the film "**Gladiator**" for several reasons. Made in 2000, this film is an excellent summary of some of the aspects of the Roman empire that we studied. Some ideas seen in the film include: architecture of Roman buildings like the Colosseum; form of dress for the time; public entertainment involving the death of animals and people; dictator form of government; power of Roman troops; Roman territories around Europe and North Africa; Roman attack of Germanic tribes in Northern Europe. While the above are relatively accurate portrayals on film, the main character of Maximus is fictional.

The film does not have any scenes of impropriety. However, when released in 2000, it was rated R only for the violent scenes of Roman battles and the entertainment of gladiators. I have watched the film many times and will cover particularly violent scenes. If you would like to see the trailer of this film, please check my website at: <http://drneufeld.com> and click C2: Roman Empire and "Gladiator".

If you would like to see the film in advance, please let me know and I will loan it for you to see. On the back of this paper is more information on the film. You could watch it on your own...it is available on Netflix. I also listed two web sites you could use to learn more about the film. If you would like more information, or if you would like to see the film yourself, you can e-mail me at [doug\\_neufeld@lawndalesd.net](mailto:doug_neufeld@lawndalesd.net) or call me at school at 310/676-4806.

Thank You!

**Please return this form by Friday, October 5, 2018!**

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Name of Student

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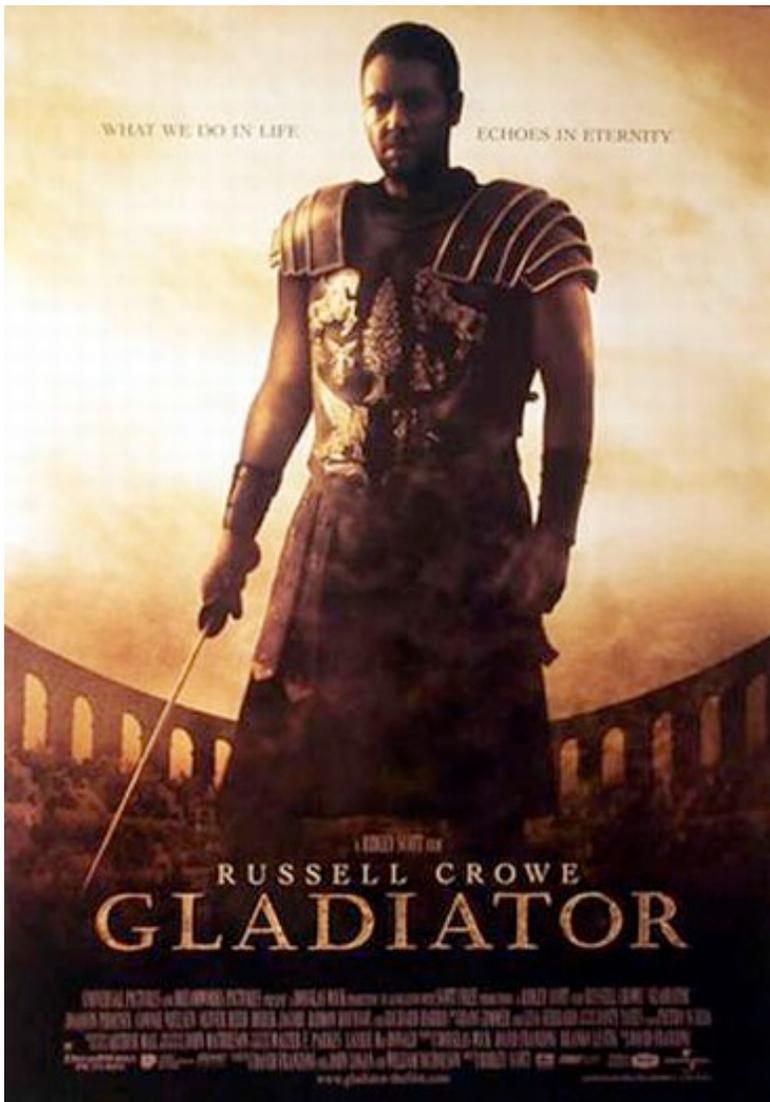
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Yes, my child can watch the 2000 film "Gladiator".

No, I prefer that my child not watch the film and complete another project instead.

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Parent Signature



## Two reviews of “Gladiator”:

Maximus is a powerful Roman general, loved by the people and the aging Emperor, Marcus Aurelius. Before his death, the Emperor chooses Maximus to be his heir over his own son, Commodus, and a power struggle leaves Maximus and his family condemned to death. The powerful general is unable to save his family, and his loss of will allows him to get captured and put into the Gladiator games until he dies. The only desire that fuels him now is the chance to rise to the top so that he will be able to look into the eyes of the man who will feel his revenge.

Written by [Chris "Morphy" Terry](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0172495/)  
<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0172495/>

General Maximus Decimus Meridius was favored by the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius admired by his daughter Lucilla and treated with some suspicion by his son Commodus. General Maximus Decimus Meridius leads his army to victory witnessed by Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Marcus Aurelius is

dying and summons Commodus and Lucilla to meet him at the site of the battle. He first speaks to Maximus and tells him he wants to name him as his heir because he trusts him, thinks of him as the son he would have wished for and believes that Maximus would lead the senate in returning Rome to a Roman Republic. The honorable and moral Maximus is horrified at the prospect of being proclaimed emperor as he wishes to return to his wife and small son at his home in Spain. Marcus Aurelius summons his son Commodus and tells him he will not be Emperor and that the role has been offered to General Maximus Decimus Meridius. Commodus kills his father in a fit of jealous rage.

**To see the trailer for this movie, go to “DrNeufeld.com” then click “Podcast” page, then click “Chapter 2: Roman Empire” or go to:**

<http://drneufeld.com>

**For more information about this film, check out these two web sites:**

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0172495/>

<http://www.roman-colosseum.info/gladiators/summary-gladiator-movie.htm>