



LSI NEWSLETTER

from February with Love

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Chinese Horoscope

Researched by Helen, Level 7

The history of the Chinese Zodiac is very interesting! It is said that Buddha invited all of the animals to joined him for the New Year celebrations, but only 12 animals bothered to turn up. As a great reward, Buddha named a year after each one of them and they actually run in the order that the animals arrived to celebrate with Buddha, starting with the rat and ending with the last guest, the pig. The Chinese believe that those born during a year of a particular animal would inherit some of the good and bad personality traits of that animal. Also, each Chinese year is influenced by whatever animal it falls in. Let's take a look at each animal, their major personality traits and what the prospects are for 2011, the Year of the Rabbit.



The Rat: Rats are charming, elegant and clever. They can be a bit gossipy and prone to being distracted. They're also thrifty and very good with handling money. Family and close friends are exceptionally important to them. The Rat is charming beyond words and throughout his undoubtedly long life he will always be popular and will have many friends. Forecast for 2011: The Rat will feel glad in a lot of ways to see the end of the Year of the Tiger! There were a lot of changes and the pace was fast - not something the Rat is entirely comfortable with. The Chinese Year of the Rabbit is the opposite – its tempo will be slow and steady and the Rat must try to be patient and remain content with steady progress throughout 2011. An important aspect of 2011 for the Rat is time for personal growth, hobbies and developing skills that bring happiness.

The Ox: Sturdy, earthy, no-nonsense – that's the Ox. Affectionate and easy-going, the Ox can show a fierce temper when agitated. He is neat, tidy, quiet and studious, with a great love of his home. Music can be a great love. Family life and a loving partner are high on the Ox's priorities. A wonderful loyal friend. very special. The Ox should take time to ensure his diet is healthy and that he is taking time to exercise and spend time outdoors. Rest and relaxation will be vital for all Oxen during the Year of the Rabbit.

CALENDAR

Chinese New Year Celebration	02/03
Valentine's Day FUN	02/14
Lunch Social with Andrea	02/16
Six FLAGS With Erber and Andrea NO SCHOOL	02/21
Lunch Social with Erber	02/24
Movie Time with Tim and Natalya	02/24



The Tiger: Magnetic, passionate and grand! When the Tiger does anything, it's noticed! Indecisiveness and stubbornness can mar the sparkle of the Tiger personality. On the one hand generous, on the other hand a little mean, it's sometimes hard to know where one stands with the Tiger. Flexible, honest and truly entertaining, one has a friend for life with a Tiger. Forecast for 2011: Most Tigers will be feeling quite pleased and energized at the end of their own year in 2010. The Year of the Rabbit will be another positive year for them. Romantic matters are particularly to the forefront, with many born under this sign deciding to get married or to take the relationship to the next level. Single Tigers will have many chances to meet a partner with June to September particularly well aspected. If there is a dream location he's always wanted to visit, this is the perfect year to do so! A house purchase or change of home could very well feature on the cards also. This will be an exciting rather than overly stressful development and Tigers should thrive in their new environment.

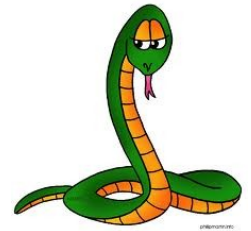


The Rabbit: Cuddly, warm and affectionate are the attributes of the Rabbit. Mysterious and a great party-giver and host, the Rabbit enjoys being the centre of attention once in a while. The Rabbit is occasionally over cautious and can be a bit boring. He is also one of the luckiest signs in the Chinese Astrology chart. Forecast for 2011: The Rabbit will have found the momentum during 2010

quite unsettling, little realizing that his accomplishments during the year will set him up beautifully for his own year in 2011. This will be a stunning and most favorable year for him, especially in regard to work and career. His ability to interact with others will put him in the lead for any promotions at work. Also, if the Rabbit is considering a completely different career, this is the perfect time to explore his options. Stress and worry over decisions may drain the Rabbit's vitality during 2011 and it's very important he gets enough rest and relaxation. He must also remember to call on friends and loved ones for support and advice during any challenging times.

The Dragon: Assertive, energetic and talented are all words to describe the Dragon personality. On the other hand, the Dragon has a tendency to be condescending and tactless without realising it. In the Chinese Zodiac, they are born under the sign of luck. They generally enjoy robust health and tend to be very successful in anything they turn their hand to. Forecast for 2011: The Chinese Year of the Rabbit will be a more balanced and secure year than 2010 for all Dragons. They will have loved the exciting nature of the Tiger year, but now it's time to take it down a notch or two! Many of them will have had changes in their job and the steadier tempo of 2011 will help them to settle in and possibly even go for promotions. Travel is also highlighted during the Rabbit year and time spent with friends and loved ones will be especially valued. Breaks during April and May or September will prove to be

memorable. Hobbies and talents should be pursued and enjoyed as they will provide great pleasure and relaxation during 2011 and could lead to other interesting opportunities.



The Snake: Intelligent and highly intuitive are two of the Snake's many fine qualities. He makes an amusing and romantic friend with a definite flirtatious streak. When challenged or criticized he can be a sore loser. The Snake is very lucky with money and is fond of the odd bet or two. He is quick-witted and enjoys reading, music and occasionally the paranormal side of life. Forecast for 2011: Snakes like to have plans and follow their itinerary in an orderly fashion – 2010 threw all this out the window! The Chinese Year of the Rabbit will be a much more appealing year to the Snake and he will feel back on



track, albeit still busy and full of activity. The focus of 2011 for the Snake will be to make sure he is doing something he likes,

something that allows him to express his creativity and talents and something that he excels at. A word of warning for all Snakes – there is the possibility of a lapse in judgement or a piece of harmful gossip – this could lead to awkwardness. Tread carefully! Healthwise, Snakes should take care to have a balanced lifestyle or their energy could suffer.

The Horse: Fun, charming and attractive sums up the Horse's traits perfectly. They love parties and crowds and being the centre of attention. They can also be egotistical, hot-headed and impatient. The Horse is a considerate and protective friend and partner and when in his company, there will always be excitement around the next corner. Forecast for 2011: The spotlight will have been on the Horse for much of 2010 with his sparkling company and friendship being frequently in demand. In 2011, the focus for the Horse will be on his career, with unexpected developments and promotional opportunities on the cards. He should watch events carefully, for when an opening occurs he will need to act fast and be alert. The Horse is an adventurous soul by nature and may do some travelling to far-flung places in the Year of Rabbit. Financially there is a definite chance for the Horse to increase his earnings over the year and he should make every effort to manage his money carefully.

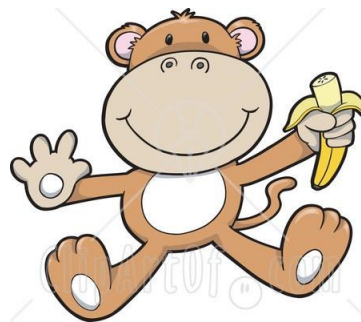


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The Goat: Graceful and optimistic, kind and easy going, would describe a Goat personality. They can also be petulant and discontented, likely to throw the towel in at the beginning of a problem. They can be charming without revealing their true feelings. The Goat is very talented and imaginative and can turn his hand to most creative pursuits. Forecast for 2011: The Year of the Rabbit

starts off brilliantly for those Goats seeking employment or wanting a career change. By networking and keeping his ear to the ground, some exciting possibilities will come up. March, April and September are well-starred for work advancement and positive changes. The past couple of years have been challenging for the Goat and 2011 will be much more upbeat, positive and happy. The Goat must look after his own health this year, ensuring that he is getting enough rest and relaxation. It's going to be a busy year, in the nicest possible way, but it could also be a bit draining on his vitality. Financially, things are looking much brighter than in previous years and many Goats will have fun buying bits and pieces for their home or taking short trips.

The Monkey: The Monkey is playful, lively, fun and a quick thinker. They get bored very easily and find it hard to settle down to doing any one thing. The Monkey can also be vain and offhand. They are ambitious and usually very good with investing money. With their quick wit and wonderful sense of humor, they are a great party guest. The Monkey's life will never be dull and predictable! Forecast for 2011: The Monkey will find 2011 very much to his liking with plans and goals moving ahead smoothly and as anticipated. For Monkeys involved in creative work such as



writing or art, this will be a particularly inspirational year and their work will be highly regarded. The Chinese Rabbit Year will offer some brilliant promotion opportunities and by being proactive and alert, the Monkey will reap the benefits. The Chinese Year of the Rabbit will be an auspicious year for him to follow up on self-improvement ideas he may have been considering for awhile. A fresh look at his fitness routine, diet and how he unwinds, could do him the world of good. 2011 will be the year for the Monkey to move forward, leaving any disappointments and regrets behind. It can be a most satisfying and enjoyable year for him.

The Rooster: The Rooster is always popular, extravagant and creative. They can be brutally honest and generally like being showered with attention. They are wonderfully loyal friends and also give advice freely – whether they are asked for it or not! Family means the world to the Rooster and they are one of the most loyal signs in the Chinese zodiac. Forecast for 2011: The Year of the Rabbit

will be a much quieter year than 2010 for the Rooster. However, the Rooster will have to curb his natural exuberance and enthusiasm just a bit in 2011 and practice some patience and common sense. It would be wise to manage any project sensibly and shop around for the best deal; Chinese Rabbit years can be expensive for all signs. On the whole, 2011 looks like being a pleasurable and encouraging year

The Dog: The Dog is wonderfully hard worker, a perfectionist and someone who loves the small details. He is also a bit anti-social, pessimistic and stubborn. They are one of the most honest and trustworthy signs of the Chinese zodiac and will always go to bat for a worthy cause. The Dog is a fantastic listener and his advice is usually very intuitive. Forecast for 2011: The Chinese Year of the Rabbit has shining possibilities for all Dogs. The main emphasis will be on their personal life. If attached, the Dog will find their relationship grow and become much more meaningful on all levels. Single Dogs will be particularly lucky in finding someone very special. In the Year of the Rabbit, the Dogs must guard against lost, delayed or incorrect documentation. Make doubly sure that everything is as it should be on all paperwork this year. The Dog will have a renewed interest in health, fitness and outdoor pursuits this year, which will greatly benefit his vitality and zest for life. If he can leave the past couple of challenging years behind him, 2011 will be a most gratifying and happy year.



The Pig: The Pig is an innocent, sweet and lovable personality. They can also be quite melancholy and over-sensitive. The Pig loves the company of others, and adores parties, gossip and chit chat. They are highly intelligent, but prefer to keep this side of their nature under wraps. The Pig does not care that much for money, but is one of the Chinese zodiac signs that is very lucky. Forecast for 2011: The Pig loves to have fun and socialize with family and friends and on this front, the Year of the Rabbit will not disappoint him! He made not have been the life of the party recently, but in 2011 his social network will greatly increase with April, May, July and October being the most enjoyable months. Single Pigs could very well meet a romantic partner through a friend or at a family gathering. The Pig will be feeling good in 2011 and would like all manner of wonderful things to happen – all at once! He must learn to pace himself and go along with the more leisurely

Valentine's Day DOs



By Arissara, Level 7

1. **DO** buy sexy lingerie (LADIES ONLY!)

Remember: Some of the cutest undergarments arrive in stores just before Valentine's Day, take this advantage and surprise your guy with the new arrival lingerie.

2. **DO** suggest an alternative to roses.

The roses can be pricy on Valentine's Day. Instead of overdone and overpriced roses, hint to your guy how much you love Gerber daisies or how pretty you think a bouquet of pink lilies can be.

3. **DO** write a love letter

No more text messages or emails today. Take out a nice piece of paper and write down the word "I love you" in your own handwriting. Tell your partner how much you love him or her or what he or she really means to you. Your partner will cherish it a precious memento.

4. **DO** plan a date that's outside the box.

Try something different to make your Valentine's Day a memorable one. Going to a wild dancing party instead of watching a movie at home is a fun idea if you normally stay at home.

5. **DO** have realistic expectations

DO have realistic expectations on how you will celebrate your Valentine's Day. To play on the safe side, talk out your expectations and plans for Valentine's Day ahead of time, so no one is left disappointed. A lot of women expect a Hollywood version of Valentine's Day when find out later that their partners only think of Valentine's day as another day in a year!

6. **DO** agree on how to celebrate.

DO compromise with your partner about how to celebrate -- some people aren't into the Hall-mark holidays and that doesn't mean they don't love you. Find something you can both feel comfortable doing as a way to celebrate the day. It's not a day where you suppose to fight. Don't put unnecessary pressure on your partner to make Valentine's Day extra special. Be aware to the possibility that you may see the holiday differently.



7. **DO** watch a chick flick.

Sure, if you are a guy, you'd rather be watching the latest 007 film or a Laker game, but she'll appreciate you sitting through a romantic movie. Try to look for one that you both might enjoy.

8. **DO** plan ahead.

Either you do decide to have a chick-flick marathon or go out for a Romantic dinner with lighted candles remember to hit Blockbuster or make a restaurant reservation early! Everyone comes up with the same idea on Valentine's Day!

9. **DO** consider spreading gifts throughout the day.

Rather than one big gift, you should try giving her a number of smaller gifts during the day. Maybe one gift at breakfast, leave one by the coffeepot. One at work then another one on the front seat of the car before he or she leaves work. This little special treat will brighten up his or her whole day

10. **DO** relax. While these ideas might sound like a lot of work, it is important to not overdo it. Don't try to cram too much into the day or into the evening. A leisurely pace is an important component of making Valentine's Day great.

Valentine's Day DON'Ts

by Yvonne, Level 7

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love with your beloved. It's a day of having romantic dinner, giving out roses, and spending time with your significant other. But you can ruin the day by doing inappropriate stuff. Here are some Valentine's don'ts to make your day much more lovable.



10. **DON'T** be late for your date!

First impression counts. Leave early and know your destination well. Look it up at Google Maps and see the route a day before. If you are late, you'll be hard pressed to convince your date how much the Valentine's romantic togetherness mattered. When you're late, it seems that you don't care and you don't have any effort to be there.

8. **DON'T** break up on Valentine's Day

It's a day of love, not drama! You can always wait two to three days to break up. Just don't ruin Valentine's day.

7. **DON'T** get together on Valentine's day

It's too much pressure. You want your day to be relaxed and plus your first date should be easy going and not too serious. When you do get together on Valentine's day, and a month later you break up, that's just gonna ruin your future Valentine's days.



6. **DON'T** get drunk!

Ladies, don't put yourself at risk of unwanted advances and guys, you don't want to be too drunk to respond to your date and lose your cool stature during your date.

5. **DON'T** talk about your ex!

One of the surest way to spoil your Valentine's day is to talk about your long-gone partner. You don't want your date to think that you are thinking other men or women. Keep your conversation focused between you two.



4. Men: **DON'T** buy lingerie!

Why? Well, you can get the wrong size, wrong color, and wrong style, which is a big problem. Ladies are picky when it comes to these things. Just leave it their instinct, okay guys?

3. **DON'T** forget to say thank you and I love you!

You need to give him or her your respect and express your affection.

2. **DON'T** buy the wrong gift!

a. Say no to kitchen stuff! Are you really gonna buy your special someone a frying pan or a spatula? Kitchen stuff doesn't say anything about LOVE, even though it's expensive or it has a designer name on it, it's still not a good idea! This is how he or she will do the math: Kitchen stuff = work + work < romance.

b. Don't bring an unwrapped gift! Tacky..tacky..tacky! Nothing says "I don't care" like an exposed gift in a plastic bag with no card and no thoughts given. Pick a pretty gift wrap or gift bag. And be sure to remove the receipt and price tag.

1. The most important is **DON'T FORGET!**

It is the worst thing ever! Mark it in your calendar with big bold letters or put a reminder on your phone.





Valentine's Day on Any Budget

By Simone, Level 6

Do you want to impress your date?

You have many options to do this and with any kind of budget!

Here are some suggestions of romantic restaurants and nice gifts to make your Valentine's Day unforgettable!!



Romantic Dinner

\$\$\$\$

La Prime

Category: Steakhouses

Neighborhood: Downtown

Attire: Dressy

Providence*

Categories: American (New),
Seafood, Asian Fusion

Neighborhood: Mid Wilshire

Attire: Dressy

\$\$\$

Houston's

Categories: Steakhouses,
American (New)

Neighborhood: Pasadena

Attire: Casual

Lawry's The Prime Rib

Categories: Steakhouses,
American (traditional)

Neighborhood: Beverly
Hills

Attire: Dressy

The Little Door

Category: French
Neighborhood: Mid-City
West

Attire: Dressy

\$\$

Cafe Santorini

Categories: Greek, Medi-
terranean

Neighborhood: Pasadena

Attire: Casual

\$\$

Pomodoro Trattoria

Category: Italian

Neighborhood: Westwood

Attire: Casual

\$

Seang Dao Thai Restaurant

Category: Thai

Neighborhood: Alhambra

Attire: Casual

Sabina's European Restaurant

Category: Romanian

Neighborhood: Hollywood

Attire: Casual



Super-cheap but very meaningful: make spaghetti or have a picnic in the park.

Price range is the approximate cost per person for a meal including one drink, tax and tip.

Free but meaningful: love letter, poem, serenade, dance for her/him

Gifts	\$ cheap, under \$10
\$\$\$ jewelry	\$\$ moderate, \$11-30
\$\$ lingerie, huge teddy bear	\$\$\$ pricy \$31-\$60
\$ chocolate, flowers	\$\$\$\$ splurge, above \$61

You can also think of things that remember your story and create something. Just don't forget that this person that you are with deserves be remembered!

Try a Virtual Date on Valentine's Day!

By Garam, Level 7

Was your boyfriend or girlfriend angry on Christmas day about the fact that you could not be together because you were far away from him/her? And do you think the same thing is going to be happen on this Valentine's Day too? Forget it! It won't be happen again if you try V.D. (Virtual Date) on V.D. (Valentine's Day)!

Spending special days such as Christmas or Valentine's day are always tough for long distance relationships, and sometimes it's even harder than for singles. For me, it was. Therefore, I made up 'Virtual Date' last year, and I could survive Christmas and New Years day. I hope this dating method will help other long distance couple, so now I want to introduce it to you.

The Virtual date's main point is doing the same things with your partner at same time, and sharing feelings right away even both of you are not in the same place. And actually if you own a webcam with microphone and Skype account, than it's just perfect for this plan. You can see how it works in real-virtual Date, here:

Example 1:: Virtual Movie Date

- 1) Fix the time : If your couple lives in different time zone, you should consider about which time is best for both of you.
- 2) Decide the place to date : Each of your house is OK. I think it is better to choose where you can talk loud and feel comfortable.
- 3) Choose your movie : Choose what both of you want to see, but I must tell you not to choose story about long distance relationship especially which has awful ending. If it ends happily, then it might be work, but I think just funny or romantic one would be better.

4) Choose which food you will eat : Food cannot be separated from date. Try to choose same or one that both of you can get from same chain store. For example, you can plan to get a hamburger, but instead, you can say "Let's get a hamburger from McDonald's!" It might help your couple to think you are really together.

5) Think about outfit too : A virtual date is also a real date. If you want more comfortable mood, then date's theme can be a pajama date! But if you want a formal mood, you should be tidy, and ladies should probably put some makeup on, too.

6) Set up your main devices : In a virtual date, webcam and messenger is really important. You should make sure it works properly. First of all, I would recommend both of you to buy a webcam and microphone, and sign in messenger which provides video chatting service. And if your internet works fast, it is perfect.

7) For the date time :

(1) You will probably sit right in front of your computer, with webcam and microphone, and maybe some food around you.

(2) Log in the messenger and say hi to your partner.

(3) Check you and your partner's webcam and microphone works ok in messenger before starting a movie.

(4) Put DVD in your computer and run it. Oh! Actually, this is my favorite part. Both of you should start the movie at the same time. So before you press play button, count 3,2,1 together. If both of you can set it even for the same second, that must be the best. 2 seconds seems not a big gap in daily life but, if you and your partner's movie have 2 second playing gap, I guess you cannot enjoy your virtual movie date. Imagine, if your partner's reaction is 2 second behind you when you watching a same movie in a same room. It is hard to feel sympathy.

(5) Enjoy your movie. Share your opinion or feeling about movie and food. Act as you are in real dating situation.

Example 2 :Giving a present event!

(1) Buy a present for him/her.

(2) Wrap and send it to your friend who lives close to your partner. It might take time, so prepare it few days before a special day that you want to give them a present.

(3) Prepare exactly same size empty box and wrap in same way with the present you have sent. And keep it.

(4) Ask your partner for a video chat at certain time. And tell your friend to stand by right in front of him/her house with your present.

(5) Tell your partner "I bought something for you!" and show the wrapped empty box to your partner.

(6) Then say, "OK, wait." And hide yourself from monitor with that empty box.

(7) Call your friend right away to knock the partner's front door and leave your present and go off before your partner opens the door. (Actually, you should tell your friend about your plan before.)

Virtual date can be transformed. You can watch TV, you can cook with your partner or you can take a good nap together! Try it with your creativity. It could be great!

What film will win the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film 2011?

By Marta and Mika, Level 6

The Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film is one of the Academy Awards of Merit, popularly known as the Oscars, handed out annually by the U.S. It is given to a feature-length motion picture produced outside the United States of America with a predominantly non-English dialogue track. Unlike other Academy Awards, the Foreign Language Film Award does not require films to be released in the United States in order to be eligible for competition. Every country is invited to submit what it considers its best film to the Academy. The designation of each country's official submission has to be done by an organization, jury or committee composed of people from the film industry, whose members' names must be sent to the Academy. Only one film is accepted from each country.



This year the Best Foreign Language Film nominees are:

Biutiful (Mexico) is a drama directed by Mexican director Alejandro González Iñárritu and starring Javier Bardem. It is Iñárritu's first directorial feature since *Babel* and his first film in his native Spanish language since his debut feature *Amores perros*. The title *Biutiful* refers to the orthographical spelling in Spanish of the English word beautiful as it would sound to native Spanish speakers. The film follows Uxbal (Bardem), an underworld figure and devoted single dad, through his attempts to reconcile with a past love and secure a future for his children as his own death draws near. On the road to redemption, darkness lights his way.

Dogtooth (Greece) is a drama directed by Yorgos Lanthimos. A father and mother (Christos Stergioglou and Michele Valley) live in a large house on the outskirts of town with their three children, whose ages range from mid-teens to early twenties. The children have never been allowed to leave the house (which is surrounded by a tall fence), and their knowledge of the outside world has been strictly controlled by their parents, who have chosen to teach them only what they believe is important and have deliberately confused or misled them in many other areas. The parents quite literally treat their children like animals. A gift from an outsider act sets off a chain reaction of events that has terrible consequences for everyone involved.

In a Better World (Denmark) is a drama directed by Susanne Bier and written by Oscar-winning screenwriter Anders Thomas Jensen. Its original Danish title is *Hævnen*, which means "The Revenge". The film won a Golden Globe award for best foreign film. The story traces elements from a refugee camp in Africa to the grey humdrum of everyday life in a Danish provincial town. The lives of two Danish families cross each other, and an extraordinary but risky friendship comes into bud. But loneliness, frailty and sorrow lie in wait. Soon, friendship transforms into a dangerous alliance and a breathtaking pursuit in which life is at stake.

Incendies (Canada) is a drama directed by Denis Villeneuve. A mother's last wishes send twins Jeanne and Simon on a journey to Middle East in search of their tangled roots. Adapted from Wajdi Mouawad's acclaimed play, *Incendies* tells the powerful and moving tale of two young adults' voyage to the core of deep-rooted hatred, never-ending wars and enduring love.

Outside the Law (Algeria) is a drama directed by Rachid Bouchareb. It is the follow-up to Bouchareb's 2006 film *Days of Glory*. The story takes place between 1945 and 1962 and focuses on three Algerian brothers living in France after having survived the aftermath of the Sétif massacre.

The Oscar and the Razzie Prediction in 2011

Kei & Su, Level 7

The Academy Awards, which are known as the Oscars, is the biggest ceremony for the film industry. The first ceremony was held in 1929. Up to this year, it has been held for 83 years, and the coming one would be held on Feb 27th, 2011, at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood.

Nowadays, there are a large number of film awards and festivals all over the world. Still, glory of the Oscars has never been faded in the film industry. This year, both James Franco and Anne Hathaway who are talented young actors will play the program hosts at the ceremony. In addition, there will be several presenters at the head, both Jeff Bridges and Sandra Bullock, who won the prizes last year, saying "The Oscar goes to".

The number of nominations for the Best Picture prize was changed from 5 to 10 since last year. Basically, there is a tendency that the films getting the Golden Globe Awards have strong possibility to win the Oscars. The Following 10 films could deserve the nominations for the Oscars from the view of results at the Golden Globe Awards.

"Black Swan - The story about ballet dancers of the masterpiece "Swan Lake" with some psychological elements. Natalie Portman has got the best performance prize at the Golden Globe with her great acting. Also, the film was nominated for several film awards, and there is high percentage for nomination.

The Social Network - The story based on the truth about the foundation of Facebook. This film was selected as the best picture for the Golden Globe and award for some other prizes. It has a possibility the same as "Black Swan".

The Fighter - The story based on the truth about a boxing fighter and a boxing coach who is also a fighter's brother. It was nominated for a couple of prizes at the Golden Globe.

The King's Speech - The story of the King George VI of Britain who lacks of making a speech and needs a speech therapist. Colin Firth who got the best performance prize at the Golden Globe, and he was nominated for the previous Oscar.

Inception – The Science mystery about the human mind through dream invasion. This film increased many repeaters. Christopher Nolan, the director of the film, has ever been praised for his directing for many times by film critics.

True Grit - This adventure movie is the new version of the classical western film about a woman seeking for her father's mother and the tough U.S. marital acted by Jeff Bridges. He got the Oscar last year with Matt Damon is also the Oscar winner. The film is the latest films released at the theatre out of 10.

127 Hours - 127 Hours is the true story of mountain climber Aron Ralston's remarkable adventure to save himself after a fallen boulder crashes on his arm and traps him in an isolated canyon in Utah. Over the next five days Ralston examines his life and survives the elements to finally discover he has the courage and the where-withal to extricate himself by any means necessary, scale a 65 foot wall and hike over eight miles before he is finally rescued.

Winter's Bone - This film came from the U.K. An Ozark Mountain girl hacks through dangerous social terrain as she hunts down her drug-dealing father, and he try to keep her family safe.

The Kids Are All Right - The story about two children conceived by artificial insemination that brings their father into their family life. Both Annette Bening and Julianne Moore, who played in children's mother couple, were nominated for the Golden Globe, and Annette won the prize as best performance.

Toy Story 3 - Woody, Buzz and the whole gang are back. As their owner Andy prepares to depart for college, his loyal toys find themselves in daycare where untamed tots with their sticky little fingers do not play nice. So, it's all for one and one for all as they join Barbie's counterpart Ken, a thespian hedgehog named Mr. Pricklepants and a pink, strawberry-scented teddy bear called Lots-o'-Huggin' Bear to plan their great escape.



There is another award ceremony which typically precedes the Oscar by one day since 1981, called the Golden Raspberry Award, or Razzie for short. This "honor", however, is awarded to those film, actor, actress, and so on, that are recognized as the worst. Instead of the golden statuette in Oscar, the award is in the form of a golfball-sized raspberry with a Super 8 mm film reel on the top in Razzie. What is worse is that the whole of which is just spray-painted gold, implying the award winner is as terrible as this trophy. Here are five films which may have chance to win this prize.

1. "Twilight Saga: Eclipse" - It is a sequel of Twilight in 2008 and 2009. This time, Bella is in a dilemma between choosing her love vampire, Edward, and her werewolf friend, Jacob. It sounds just like two men fighting for a woman's favors. Will it touch the adolescent female's fantasy again?
2. "Vampires Suck" - A spoof of vampire-themed movies, which are obviously implying the somehow popular film, the Twilight. Could this kind of satirical movie that teases on original one be better, or even worse? We'll see.



3. "The Expendable" - With many noted actors, e.g. Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li, Bruce Willis, and the California State Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, it supposed to be one of the classic action movies in the world, but apparently, it is not gonna happen this time. The story is talking about a team of mercenaries who aim to overthrow a dictator, and one of the members falls in love with the dictator's daughter by accident. You don't even watch the movie and can easily predict the end - they fulfill the mission and save the girl. In the middle of the story, there is nothing but gun fights.

4. "Grown Ups" - Five good friends and former teammates reunite for a weekend after their high school basketball coach passes away. Even though family, friendship, and love occur in the story, the fact is that it is still dumb, lazy, and pointless. Adam Sandler try to make a comedy again, but you may barely raise a chuckle while watching this movie.

5. "Skyline" - The story is occurred in Los Angeles, where the strange lights descend and aliens threaten to swallow the human population off the face of the Earth. A group of friends is trying to fight and survive. It sounds like there are hundreds of movie like this.

In Oscar, although people think that results are bound to be expected, sometime unexpected things happen. Perhaps this year ceremony is likely to be keen competition. However, in Razzie, you've never known which one is going to win, and sometimes the famous movie can be the worst one as well, like Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen last year. Let's wait and see.

"My Hero Ichiro"

-My favorite baseball player-

By Kaori, Level 7

Do you know Ichiro? Did you hear the name before? Ichiro Suzuki is often known simply as Ichiro. He is a baseball player from Japan, and he has played for Seattle Mariners as first batter for ten years. I had seen his play at the Marine Stadium in Seattle three years ago. His play was breathtaking!! His nickname is "Wizard", "Hit Machine" and so on. Everybody knows that he is a fantastic player, but few people know about his suffering. Actually, it's not easy to succeed, so I want to write his story.

He was born on October 22, 1973 and now he is 37 years old. When he was 6 years old, he joined a junior baseball club. His father was really passionate about teaching baseball to him. Everyday he commuted to Batting Center after school with his father and swung his bat again and again. In junior high and high school, he was a pitcher but one day he was in a car accident. So he couldn't help changing from pitcher to fielder.



After he graduated his school, he became a professional baseball player. Although he was a very good player, his coach didn't like his play because of his really unique batting form. Also because he is small and skinny. His coach told him to change his form, but he didn't. So he had hardly played in the game for two years. But in 1994, the boss of his team was changed. It was a chance for him. His new boss was Mr. Ohgi and he really like his play style. Mr. Ohgi advised him to use "Ichiro" instead of "Suzuki". He finally played most of the games in the season and he got a lot of awards.

In 2001, he started his new life as a Major Leaguer in Seattle, the US. Everybody doubted his success because no fielder from Japan had succeeded in the US. But he finally succeeded. He made a rookie-record 242 hits, the most by any MLB player since 1930. With a .350 batting average and 56 stolen bases, and he won the American League MVP (Most Valuable Player) and the Rookie of the Year awards. After that, he made a myriad of records every year.



I respect him because he finally overcame his suffering.