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The central theme of Cloud Atlas is that everything and everyone is connected. Cloud Atlas is made up of several stories. The stories take place over five hundred years. The movie follows six peoples' souls across time. It shows how their lives are connected to each other. It also shows how they influence each other. Each life jumps from one century to the next.

One of the stories takes place in 1849 on a ship crossing the Pacific Ocean. That story is: Adam helps a runaway slave, who hides in his cabin. Adam becomes sick and is treated by the ship's untrustworthy Dr. Henry Goose. The second story takes place in 1936 Scotland. Robert helps composer Ayrs finish a piece of music. They create a symphony called "Cloud Atlas Sextet". The third story is set in 1973 San Francisco. Journalist Luisa helps uncover a scandal at a nuclear power plant.

The fourth story takes place in 2012 England. Cavendish is a publisher who makes a fortune from a trashy book. The fifth story takes us to the future year 2144. Sonmi 451 is a clone waitress. She discovers a forbidden world outside her cafe. The sixth story is also in the future: the year 2321 in Hawaii. The characters are members of a tribal community who may save the human race. The result of all the stories is a mosaic. It can be confusing to connect the different lives and stories. It is like a puzzle. Try to figure out how all the different lives are connected to each other.

1. We are bound to our family by name, blood and culture.
2. He experienced many travails in his goal to overcome his disease.
3. She is not a real human being but a clone copy of a human being.
4. After the company fired my father he had to do multiple jobs.
5. After dad started taking the new medicine his health made significant improvement.
6. I could not interpret what the complex story was trying to say.
7. The country's economy has evolved from textiles to electronics.
8. Romeo and Juliet believed in eternal love that would last forever, even after death.
9. The car is propelled by an electric engine.
10. The traffic jam stalled traffic for two hours.
11. We are now in the era of globalization, whether we like it or not.
12. The river meandered through valleys and fields and ended up at the sea.

Although he seems to be friendly and innocent he is really the villain of the story.
### Listening & Conversation Exercise

**A**: What are you ________?
**B**: It’s a novel by one of my _______ writers.
**A**: What’s the _______?
**B**: Norwegian Wood. It’s _______.
**A**: Who was it ________ by?
**B**: Murakami. The book’s great but the _______ wasn’t so good.
**A**: Movie versions are never as good as the _______.
**B**: You can say that _______.

### Watch the Video 8 9 10


**Notes:**
- from womb to tomb 生まれてから死ぬまでの
- dystopian future 極めでて思い得来
- incarnation 演じた人間、化身
- “who try to spend it do not fare well” 覆そうとする者はいい人生を送れない

### Listening Exercise - True or False

映像の内容を思い出しながら、次の文が合っていたら T、間違っていたら F に丸をつけましょう。

**[T / F]** 1. *Cloud Atlas* shows how we are connected to others in the past and present.

**[T / F]** 2. Some of the different characters are played by the same actors in *Cloud Atlas*.

**[T / F]** 3. Halle Berry, one of the actors, thinks that playing several roles was easy.

**[T / F]** 4. *Cloud Atlas* is all about eternal love.

**[T / F]** 5. Costumes and movie sets show the different periods of history in the movie.

**[T / F]** 6. The movie reviewer thinks the movie lacks depth.

**[T / F]** 7. The movie reviewer thinks there are not enough different characters.

### Listening Exercise - Multiple Choice

映像の内容を思い出しながら、正しい答を選びましょう。

1. *Cloud Atlas* is a story about...
   a. eternal love
   b. the future
   c. lessons learned from previous lives

2. What does Luisa keep reading?
   a. the same book
   b. old letters
   c. the same letter

3. Why does Luisa keep reading these things?
   a. she’s trying to understand the language
   b. she’s trying to understand why we keep making the same mistakes
   c. she’s trying to think of how to answer them

4. How many eras does the story go through?
   a. 1851 to 1974 to the future
   b. a few years
   c. the last century to the next century

5. How many characters did Halle Berry play in the movie?
   a. four characters
   b. six characters
   c. five characters
6. What links each era to the next era in the story?
   a. history
   b. romance
   c. evil

7. How long does the movie last?
   a. three hours
   b. two hours
   c. two and a half hours

**Vocabulary Check**

次の文の空欄に適語を選んで入れましょう。

1. His progress was ______ by lack of money for university.
2. They are almost completely the same, the differences are not ______.
3. He was ______ to his family company by loyalty and a long family tradition.
4. It is hard to ______ what he means as he is not at all clear in his explanation.
5. They are too concerned with their own ______ to pay attention to the problems of others.
6. There were not enough actors for our theater so we had to play ______ roles.
7. He is the most optimistic person I have ever met with ______ hope for the future.

- a. bound
- b. travails
- c. clone
- d. multiple
- e. significant
- f. interpret
- g. evolved
- h. eternal
- i. propels
- j. stalled
- k. era
- l. meander
- m. villain of the story

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**Halle Berry Biography**

Halle Berry became known in 1986 when she was Miss Ohio in the Miss USA beauty pageant. After the beauty contest, she became a fashion model for Revlon Cosmetics. She was discovered and cast in her first TV series *Living Dolls* in 1989 where she gained a reputation for “living her roles”. She did this by remaining in the character she was playing in a drama, even in real life. Her first big movie was Spike Lee’s *Jungle Fever*. She became famous as a result of her role as Storm in *X-Men* as a mutant who can control the weather. Halle was the very first African-American actress to win the Academy Award for Best Actress in *Monster’s Ball* in 2002. She was named by *People Magazine* “50 Most Beautiful People” five times. Halle says that “humor is always part of the best hours in life”. Learn more about Halle Berry at her fan page: [http://www.halleberryfan.com/](http://www.halleberryfan.com/)