

MA 111 — Worksheet 3.1

Read this article from

wildcat.arizona.edu/wildlife/oscars/will-the-hurt-locker-be-grossly-overlooked-1.1224670,
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Will ‘The Hurt Locker’ be grossly overlooked?

No one ever said a movie about a bomb squad in Iraq would do booming business. And it hasn’t.

If Kathryn Bigelow’s war drama, “The Hurt Locker,” wins the best picture Oscar Sunday night, not only will its producers earn some gold statuettes, they’ll have the dubious distinction of having made the lowest-grossing film to nail the academy’s top honor in more than 50 years. To date, “The Hurt Locker” has grossed a mere \$12.6 million domestically, according to BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Even with foreign grosses of \$7.3 million tossed in for good measure, “The Hurt Locker’s” worldwide box office is still hurting.

The last time a best picture winner made less was in 1955, when “Marty” grossed \$3 million domestically. Adjust “Marty’s” grosses for inflation, however, and they translate to \$23.77 million, which still tops “The Hurt Locker.”

Not that academy members have been looking at dollar signs in recent years when marking the best picture box on their Oscar ballots. The 2005 drama “Crash,” which grossed only \$54.6 million domestically, was the lowest-grossing best picture winner since “The Last Emperor” in 1987 (its U.S. take was only \$44 million). And “No Country for Old Men,” which won two years ago, topped out at \$74.3 million. Even 2004’s “Million Dollar Baby” just barely tipped the \$100-million mark.

Of course, a win for “The Hurt Locker” is hardly a lock. It faces stiff competition from “Avatar,” whose victory, ironically, would make it the highest-grossing best picture winner of all time. Although Scarlett O’Hara might say “fiddle-dee-dee” to that. Adjust the previous 81 winners’ grosses for inflation, and “Gone With the Wind” is still the all-time champ with a domestic gross of \$1.537 billion. Even Rhett Butler would give a damn about that.

U.S. Department Of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers — (CPI-U), U.S. city average, all items, 1982–84=100.

Year	Annual CPI	Year	Annual CPI	Year	Annual CPI
1913	9.9	1946	19.5	1979	72.6
1914	10.0	1947	22.3	1980	82.4
1915	10.1	1948	24.1	1981	90.9
1916	10.9	1949	23.8	1982	96.5
1917	12.8	1950	24.1	1983	99.6
1918	15.1	1951	26.0	1984	103.9
1919	17.3	1952	26.5	1985	107.6
1920	20.0	1953	26.7	1986	109.6
1921	17.9	1954	26.9	1987	113.6
1922	16.8	1955	26.8	1988	118.3
1923	17.1	1956	27.2	1989	124.0
1924	17.1	1957	28.1	1990	130.7
1925	17.5	1958	28.9	1991	136.2
1926	17.7	1959	29.1	1992	140.3
1927	17.4	1960	29.6	1993	144.5
1928	17.1	1961	29.9	1994	148.2
1929	17.1	1962	30.2	1995	152.4
1930	16.7	1963	30.6	1996	156.9
1931	15.2	1964	31.0	1997	160.5
1932	13.7	1965	31.5	1998	163.0
1933	13.0	1966	32.4	1999	166.6
1934	13.4	1967	33.4	2000	172.2
1935	13.7	1968	34.8	2001	177.1
1936	13.9	1969	36.7	2002	179.9
1937	14.4	1970	38.8	2003	184.0
1938	14.1	1971	40.5	2004	188.9
1939	13.9	1972	41.8	2005	195.3
1940	14.0	1973	44.4	2006	201.6
1941	14.7	1974	49.3	2007	207.342
1942	16.3	1975	53.8	2008	215.303
1943	17.3	1976	56.9	2009	214.537
1944	17.6	1977	60.6	2010	216.687
1945	18.0	1978	65.2		