

RATATOUILLE



PRODUCTION: USA 2007

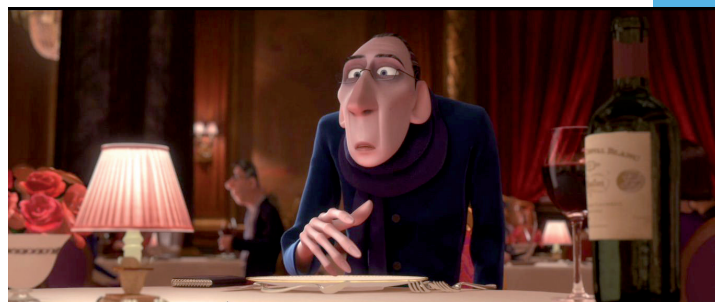
DIRECTOR: Brad Bird

STARRING (voices): Patton Oswalt (Remy), Lou Romano (Alfredo Linguini), Ian Holm (Skinner)

SYNOPSIS

An idealistic and ambitious provincial rat named Remy, who has a wonderful sense of smell and a sophisticated palate, dreams of becoming a great French chef despite his family's wishes and the obvious problem of being a rat. When he ends up in the sewer¹ beneath one of Paris finest restaurants, made famous by his culinary idol Auguste Gusteau (author of "Anyone Can Cook"), the rodent gourmet² finds himself ideally placed to realize his dream.

At Gusteau's, Remy meets Alfredo Linguini, an inexperienced young man employed as a garbage boy³, who desperately needs to keep his job at the restaurant, despite his lack of cooking abilities. To save the soup that Linguini accidentally messes up, Remy throws in some ingredients; the soup is a success and Linguini's career as a chef – guided like a marionette by Remy hidden under his chef's hat – is born.



BEFORE VIEWING

1 Answer the questions.

1. Do you have a "sophisticate palate" or are you easy to please and eat anything?
2. Have you ever tried the cuisine of a renowned chef? If so, what was your experience like? Do you ever watch TV programs with celebrity chefs? How would you define the character traits of some of them: eccentric, creative, amusing, serious, severe, pleasant? What else? Do they put on airs (pretend to be more important than they really are)?
3. What is ratatouille? What are its main ingredients?

1. sewer: underground canal for carrying water and human waste away from buildings
2. gourmet: food connoisseur
3. garbage boy: young man in charge of taking out refuse



FILM CLIP

2 Watch the film clip and fill in the script with the phrases in the box.

get the smoky flavor • I found a mushroom • this is special • this is the real question • this rosemary • this sweet grass • to wash my paws • we put into our mouths • you found cheese • you've got to taste this



Remy is wandering with his brother Emile in search for food.

Remy: Hey, Emile. Emile. **1.** Come on, you're good at hiding food. Help me find a good place to put this. *(to himself)* He doesn't understand me, but I can be myself around him.

Emile: Why are you walking like that?

Remy: I don't want to constantly have **2.** Did you ever think about how we walk on the same paws that we handle food with? You ever think about what **3.**

Emile: All the time.

Remy: When I eat, I don't want to taste everywhere my paws have been.

Emile: Well, go ahead. But if Dad sees you walking like that, he's not going to like it.

Remy: What have you got there? Ah, oh, oh. **4.**? And not just any cheese. *Tomme de chevre de pays!* That would go beautifully with my mushroom. And, **5.**

This rosemary with... maybe with a few drops from **6.**

Emile: Well, throw it on the pile, I guess, and then we'll... You know...

Remy: We don't want to throw this in with the garbage. **7.**

Emile: But we're supposed to return to the colony before sundown or, you know, Dad's gonna...

Remy: Emile! There are possibilities unexplored here. We've got to cook this. Now, exactly how we cook **8.** Yeah. The key is to keep turning it. **9.** nice and even.

Emile: That storm's getting closer. Hey, Remy, you think that maybe we shouldn't be so...

Remy: **10.**! This is... It's got this kind of... It's burny, melty... It's not really a smoky taste. It's a certain... It's kind of like a...

3 Now choose the correct option.

1. Remy is walking on his hind legs because he (a) *doesn't want to soil his hind paws* (b) *he's hygienic and doesn't want to handle food with dirty paws.*
2. Emile (a) *is* (b) *isn't* really concerned with food hygiene.
3. "Tomme de chevre" is made from (a) *goat's milk* (b) *sheep's milk.*
4. Remy plans to add (a) *herbs* (b) *spices* to improve the mushroom and cheese taste.
5. Remy is (a) *disgusted* (b) *impressed* by the soft and buttery electrocuted mushroom.
6. The scene is taking place (a) *at night* (b) *in the afternoon.*

AFTER VIEWING

4 Surf the Net and answer the questions.

1. Imagine a British chef working in a pub. What typical food could he/she cook?
2. What was a typical lunch at the court of king Henry VIII like?
3. What was a typical Victorian picnic like?