

## I Preview the movie

### 1. Background

Directed by	Robert Zemeckis
Based on	Forrest Gump By Winston Groom
Stars	Tom Hanks Robin Wright Gary Sinise Mykelti Williamson Sally Field
Distributed by	Paramount Pictures
Box office	\$677,945,399

### 2. Plot

Born in Greenbow, Alabama, Forrest Gump's IQ is only 75. His mother always tries to make him feel no different from anybody else. Jenny is a motherless girl, whose father is an alcoholic. Forrest and Jenny are best friends like peas and carrots.

Forrest gains a lot during his life. He runs very fast, so he enters the college, and later he joins the football team in the college. Years later, with his college degree, he is recruited in the army. In the army, he meets Bubba, another important friend in his life. Bubba is always talking about shrimps. During the Vietnam War, Forrest saves many lives of his fellow soldiers. But he loses his good friend, Bubba. One of the soldiers he has saved is Lieutenant Dan, who loses both of his legs. He believes that his destiny is dying on the battlefield rather than surviving the war. During the treatment in the hospital, Forrest finds that he is very good at playing table tennis. And later he is in the All-American Ping-pong Team. In 1971, with President Nixon, the Team visited China. Coming back from China, Forrest makes a lot of money from

doing advertisement for a table tennis paddle brand. With the sum of money, he starts his shrimp business in honor of Bubba. Lieutenant Dan, as he has promised, comes to help Forrest as his first mate. Fortunately, their boat survives a severe hurricane, and they become millionaires.

Forrest always loves Jenny, just like what he says: "I am not a smart man, but I know what love is." Coming in and going out of Forrest's life many times, Jenny dreams of becoming a famous singer. One day, Forrest receives a letter from Jenny and is going to see her ... that's where the film starts ...

## II View the movie

### Clip 1 Forrest's childhood

#### Words and Expressions:

intend to          打算

brace              托架, 支撑物

#### Task 1 Watch the video clip and fill in the missing words.

Mrs. Gump:

What are y'all **1** \_\_\_\_\_? Haven't you ever seen a little boy with **2** \_\_\_\_\_ on his legs before? Don't ever let anybody tell you that **3** \_\_\_\_\_, Forrest. If God **4** \_\_\_\_\_ everybody to be the same, he'd have given us all braces on our legs.

...

Mrs. Gump:

Remember what I told you, Forrest. **5**\_\_\_\_\_. Did you hear what I said, Forrest? You are the same as everybody else. You are no different.

**Task 2 Watch the video clip again and answer the questions.**

- a) What do Forrest and his mama live on?

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- b) In the video clip, Mrs. Gump emphasizes that Forrest is no different from others. Do you think Forrest is the same as others? Why?

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**Clip 2 Jenny's escape from her father**

**Words and Expressions:**

take a nap      打盹儿

**Task 1 Mark T (True) or F (False) for the following statements according to the clip.**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Jenny's father is a very loving man.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Jenny and Forrest have the similar life experiences. Some social problems affect their lives.

**Task 2 Answer the questions from this video clip.**

- a) Why does Jenny pray to be a bird?

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- b) What is the consequence of Jenny's praying to God?

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### Clip 3 Forrest's joining the army

#### Words and Expressions:

neat	整洁的
OCS	美国的军官预备学校
private	列兵（美国士兵中最低军衔）

#### Task 1 Mark T (True) or F (False) for the following statements according to the clip.

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ Forrest adjusts to the military life very well.
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ Bubba sets a new record for putting the weapons together.
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ Bubba is always talking about crabs.

#### Task 2 Answer the questions from this video clip.

- a) How does Drill Sergeant think of Forrest?

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- b) Do you know which country is the army in and which fight is the army going to indulge in?

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**Clip 4 The death of Mrs. Gump****Words and Expressions:**

straighten out    使变直

destiny          命运

**Task 1 Watch the video clip and fill in the missing words of the dialogue.**

Forrest:        1 \_\_\_\_\_, Mama?

Mrs. Gump:    2 \_\_\_\_\_, Forrest. Come on in. Sit down over here.

Forrest:        Why are you dying, Mama?

Mrs. Gump:    3 \_\_\_\_\_. 4 \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, now, don't you be afraid, sweetheart.  
5 \_\_\_\_\_. It's something 6 \_\_\_\_\_. I didn't know it. But I was destined to be  
your mama. 7 \_\_\_\_\_.

Forrest:        You did good, Mama.

Mrs. Gump:    Well, I happened to believe 8 \_\_\_\_\_. 9 \_\_\_\_\_.

Forrest:        What's my destiny, Mama?

Mrs. Gump:    You're gonna have to 10 \_\_\_\_\_ for yourself. 11 \_\_\_\_\_, Forrest. You never  
know what you are going to get.

Forrest:        Mama always had a way of explaining things so I could understand them.

Mrs. Gump:    I will miss you, Forrest.

Forrest:        She had got the cancer and died on a Tuesday. I bought her a new hat with  
12 \_\_\_\_\_ on it.

**Task 2** Dub the voice of Forrest and Mrs. Gump while the video is played again without the sound.

**Task 3** Discussion: Do you think everyone has his own destiny or we are all just floating around accidentally on breeze? What's your opinion to "destiny"?

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### **Clip 5** The meeting of Forrest and Jenny after many years

**Task 1** Answer the following questions according to the dialogue.

a) What surprises Forrest in Jenny's house?

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b) What's wrong with the gift that Forrest takes to Jenny?

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c) What is Jenny's scrapbook for?

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d) How does the kid get his name?

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e) What is Forrest worried the most about his son?

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**Task 2** Discussion: How do you feel when you see the father and son sit together watching TV?

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**Clip 6**

**Task 1** Take down what Forrest said in front of Jenny's tomb.

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### III Review the movie

#### 1. Cultural Notes

##### 1) Ku Klux Klan

Ku Klux Klan is short for 3K Club, which was formed in 1865 in Tennessee, with a Confederate General Nathan Bedford as the leader. The club advocated white superiority. They use violent means to prevent the blacks from gaining any rights after the Civil War.

##### 2) Elvis Aaron Presley

Elvis Aaron Presley was a very popular singer in the mid-1950s. The Rolling Stone Magazine said that he made rock and roll the international language of the pop. He defined the music genre of rock and roll and had an extensive impact on culture. He was a music giant who changed the

development of music. His music was under the influence of African-American blues, Christian gospel and so on. His dance moves, clothing and even attitude towards life was followed by music enthusiasts.

### 3) John Lennon

If you are not familiar with the name John Lennon, you may know the famous rock music band Beatles. And John Lennon is one of its founders. He was an English musician, songwriter, singer and political activist.

In 1952, John Lennon began to like music after entering Quarry Bank primary school. In 1955, he organized a rock band called “Quarrymen” at the school. After the Beatles period, he became a famous solo singer. Many of his famous songs, including *Give Peace a Chance* and *Imagine*, were issued in that period.

But in 1980, John was shot to death by one of his fans out of his apartment in Manhattan. It made people begin to reflect on a social phenomenon that the fans were so crazy to the music and musician beyond the artistic extent. It had opened out the problems of the American society.

### 4) Ping-pong Diplomacy

In April 1971, at the 31st World Table Tennis Championships held in Japan, the US national table tennis team expressed the idea to visit China.

In response, the Chinese Table Tennis Association invited the US table tennis team to visit China. Premier Zhou Enlai met with the US table tennis delegation headed by Nixon.

Premier Zhou said: “By visiting our country, you have opened the gate of the exchanges between the people of us two nations. We believe that a friendly exchange will win approval and support from both the Chinese and American peoples.”

### 5) Watergate Scandal

It is a political scandal of the Republican administration occurring in Watergate Hotel in 1972 when President Nixon engaged in the president election campaign.

Story comes that Nixon appointed five men to break into the DNC headquarters at the Watergate hotel to wire some bugs for listening secretly to the process about the election in the Democratic Party. The scandal made Nixon a focus in American society and left him with great pressure. It didn't influence Nixon's reappointment in that year, but with pressure, he had to admit it and resigned in 1974, which made Nixon the first president to leave his office because of the scandal in American history.



## 2. Classical lines from the film

- 1) Life was like a box of chocolate and you never know what you're gonna get.  
人生就像一盒巧克力，你永远不知道下一块品尝到的是什么口味。
- 2) His back is as crooked as a politician.  
他的后背像政客一样弯曲（对政客的讽刺）。
- 3) There is an awful lot you can tell about a person by their shoes. Where they're going. Where they've been. I bet you could walk all day in shoes like that and not feel a thing.  
要想知道一个人很多事情，只要看看他穿的鞋就能知道。他会往哪里走，他去过哪里。我敢说你穿这双鞋走一天也不会感觉到累。
- 4) Stupid is as stupid does.  
傻人做傻事（傻人有傻福）。
- 5) You are no different than anybody else is.  
你和其他人没有任何的不同。
- 6) We were like peas and carrots.  
我们形影不离。
- 7) Dear God, make me a bird, so I can fly far, far, far away from here.  
亲爱的上帝，让我变成一只小鸟吧，这样我就能飞很远，远离这里。
- 8) Death is just a part of life, something we're all destined to do. I didn't know it. But I was destined to be your mama. I did the best I could.  
死亡是生命的一部分，是我们注定要面对的。我过去不知道，但我注定要做你的妈妈，我就尽力去做好。
- 9) I'm not a smart man, but I know what love is.  
我不是很聪明，但我知道什么是爱。

## 3. Film Review

Forrest Gump was born with an IQ of 75, a bit on the slow side, and he has some muscle problems. Why can he become a football star, a Vietnam battlefield hero, a shrimp boat captain, and finally a millionaire? After watching the film I wonder why he can achieve so much success that many people dream of. Many people may ask about Forrest's success, which is actually one of the themes of this film. We can analyze the film with the following aspects:

### 3.1 Mrs. Gump playing an important role in Forrest's life

Mrs. Gump is a great mother. Her influence on Forrest is irreplaceable. Just because of Mrs. Gump's loving for life, she tries her best to make Forrest feel no different from others. Though she knew her son's IQ is only 75, she still tries her best to let Forrest enter the famous public school to obtain good education. She always encourages him, which is the main reason for Forrest's success.

Mrs. Gump is an anchor for Forrest. Before leaving for Vietnam when saying goodbye to each other, they sit on the rock outside their house, leaning together, and finally Forrest can't help shedding tears in his mother's arms.

From what Forrest said, we can know the great influence of his mother on him. For example, "Mama always had a way of explaining things so I could understand them easily" as well as "stupid is as stupid does".

Before she went to the last part of her life, Mrs. Gump told Forrest that "I didn't know it, but I was destined to be you mama. I did the best I could. I happen to believe that you make your own destiny. You have to do the best with what God gave you". She told him again that "Life was like a box of chocolates and you never know what you are going to get". What his mother said was meaningful, which helps him guide his life.

So after his long running he may remember his mother's words — you get to put the past behind you before you move on. He says he was tired, but mostly he knew what to do with his mother's words.

### 3.2 Forrest judging from his own

#### 3.2.1 Insistence

Insistence is an important word in the film. Most of us may be smarter than Forrest, but not all of us can focus on one thing constantly. Usually, we can't do one thing till the last moment, so we fail. Forrest always knows his own shortcomings, so he focuses and finally he succeeds.

Another important part in the film moves us a lot. It is about Forrest's running. After Jenny left him again, Forrest was depressed. So he began to run. He run for three years two months fourteen days and sixteen hours. So we can see that Forrest is a man of insistence.

#### 3.2.2 Sincerity and purity

Forrest treated others kindly. He is just like a friend. He is kind to all the people around him, like Lieutenant Dan and Bubba's mother. Forrest Gump loved them in a great way that he himself didn't think so.

His love to Jenny was selfish and without expectation of reward. He said to Jenny: "I'm not a