

ROCKY: THE LEGEND

In 1976, the Oscar for Best Picture went to a film about a young boxer. The new young star of the film also wrote the story. His name was Sylvester Stallone, and the film was *Rocky*. A legend was born!

Where did the idea for *Rocky* come from?

In 1975, Sylvester Stallone went to see a fight between Muhammad Ali and Chuck Wepner. Wepner was a 'nobody', but he stayed in the fight until the last round. He even put Ali on the floor! 'That night, Rocky Balboa was born,' says Stallone.

What is *Rocky* about?

Heavyweight boxing champion, Apollo Creed, is going to fight in Philadelphia. When his opponent breaks his hand, Creed's team look for a different fighter. They decide to fight a 'nobody' – Rocky Balboa.



So does Rocky win the fight with Creed?

No, Apollo wins. Rocky fights hard and is still on his feet at the end. He has learned to respect himself.

Is the film only about boxing?

No, it's a love story, too. It tells the story of Rocky's love for his best friend's sister, Adrian.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.

actor legend machine volunteer

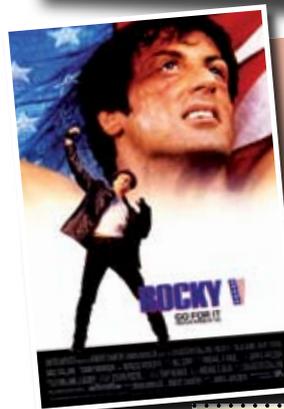
THE STORY CONTINUES...

Rocky II (1979): At first, Rocky doesn't want to continue boxing. He wants to enjoy life with his wife, Adrian and their new baby, Robert. But the family needs money and Apollo Creed wants to fight Rocky again. Rocky agrees, and this time he wins the fight.

Rocky III (1982): Rocky is enjoying the champion's life, but loses to a dangerous new opponent, Clubber Lang. Then Apollo Creed becomes Rocky's trainer. Rocky fights Lang a second time and becomes heavyweight champion again.



Rocky IV (1985): Russian fighting machine, Ivan Drago, comes to the USA. Apollo Creed volunteers to fight him, but dies in the ring. Rocky is angry and decides to fight Drago in Russia. Far from home, Rocky wins the fight.



Rocky V (1990): Rocky's luck changes. Doctors tell him he cannot fight again and the Balboas have to sell their house. Rocky starts to train a young boxer called Tommy. But Tommy leaves Rocky for a different manager. In the end, Tommy and Rocky fight – not in the ring but in the street – and Rocky wins.

Have you seen any of these Rocky films? Which is your favourite? Which would you like to watch?