



# THE DARK KNIGHT THE MOVIE

**Batman Begins** brought Batman successfully back to the cinema in 2005. Three years later, *The Dark Knight* built on that success. It was hugely popular all over the world.

## FANTASTIC ACTION SCENES

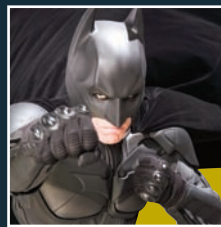
There are some great special effects in the film, but a lot of the scenes were done without them. Do you remember the scene where the huge, 18-wheel lorry turns over? That was real, and it took weeks of preparation.

IMAX cameras were used for several of the action scenes. These are difficult to use, but they show much more detail than ordinary cameras. You can see the film in an ordinary cinema or on the huge screen of an IMAX cinema.



## GREAT ACTORS

**Christian Bale** (Batman/Bruce Wayne)



grew up in England and the US. His first acting part was in a Steven Spielberg film, *Empire of the Sun*, at the age of twelve. Bale practised fighting for two or three hours every day to prepare for the part of Batman. He even did the most difficult fighting scenes himself.

**Heath Ledger** (the Joker) grew up in



Australia. To prepare for his part in *The Dark Knight*, he did lots of research and thinking. Day after day he practised the Joker's voice and way of moving, and he kept a diary of the Joker's thoughts and feelings. He won several awards for the part. Sadly, *The Dark Knight* was one of his last films. He died in January 2008.

Have you ever seen an IMAX film? What was it like?

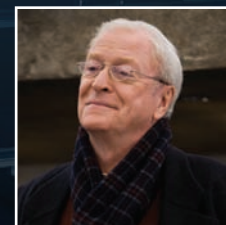
Have you seen any Batman films? What did you think of them?

**Maggie Gyllenhaal** (Rachel) is an



American actor from a 'movie' family. Her father is a film director and her mother a film writer. Her brother Jake is a famous actor who starred with Heath Ledger in *Brokeback Mountain*.

**Michael Caine** (Alfred) is a very



famous British actor. He has acted in more than 100 films and won lots of awards.

## A family film!

The director of *The Dark Knight*, Christopher Nolan, wrote the screenplay with his brother Jonathan. His wife, Emma Thomas, produced the film.

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.  
special effects detail scene research award screenplay

# BATMAN'S GADGETS OLD AND NEW!

Batman always has amazing gadgets, and in *The Dark Knight* there are some great new ones!

## The new Batsuit

Batman's new suit is made from lots of pieces of tough material. Christian Bale says that it's cooler and more comfortable than the old one. The helmet isn't joined to the rest of the suit, so Batman can turn his head easily. Thin pieces of special white glass come down over Batman's eyes so he can see into buildings. There are knives hidden in the arms. And it still has its cape, which gives Batman huge bat wings to 'fly' with.

## The Batmobile and the Bat-pod

The Batmobile has always been an amazing car with a lot of useful gadgets. It can climb up walls, jump across roofs and drive over anything, including traffic coming towards it! It now has GPS\*, too, with a 3D map of Gotham City. And

when the Batmobile is destroyed in an explosion, its front part becomes the Bat-pod. The Bat-pod is a special two-

wheeled vehicle with guns and small bombs on it.

## The sonar phone

Batman's mobile phone uses sound waves, just like a bat! With it, he can see through walls and into buildings ... in 3D. The

phone can also send back pictures from a long way away. Towards the end of the film, Batman takes over the phones of all the people in Gotham. He makes them into cameras and microphones and they send out sound and pictures from all over the city. Batman uses them to discover where the Joker is hiding. But is it wrong to use technology to spy on people like this?

\* GPS (Global Positioning System) is a gadget that tells you where you are.

## Did you know?

The Batmobile can go from 0 to 97 kilometres an hour in 5 seconds.



The Bat-pod

The new Batsuit

The sonar phone

The Batmobile



Would you like to see into buildings and hear other people's conversations like Batman? Would you like other people to see and hear you?!

What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.  
gadget tough material helmet cape sonar take over

# THE DARK SIDE OF BATMAN

“**Batman can only be our secret hero, our silent protector. A Dark Knight.**”



**The Dark Knight shows a darker side to the Batman story. How did Batman become so 'dark'?**

**Was Bruce a happy child?**

Yes ... until he was six years old. Then a thief called Joe Chill shot his parents dead in front of him and his life changed for ever. For years he was angry and wanted revenge. Then he realised that revenge wasn't the answer. He decided to protect people and stop criminals instead. He travelled the world and learned how to fight. Then, when he was ready, he returned to Gotham City.

**Why does he call himself Batman?**

One day, as a child, Bruce fell down a deep well. Suddenly, hundreds of bats were flying all around him. From that moment, Bruce had a terrible fear of bats. But some years later, he taught himself not to be afraid of bats anymore. When he came back to Gotham, he used the large cave under his family home as his secret hiding place – like a bat. He became Batman.



**Why are the people of Gotham City afraid of Batman?**

Some people think Batman is a hero. Others think he's a dangerous vigilante because he doesn't always follow the law. With criminals, Batman uses fear instead of a gun. He knows that many people are afraid of bats. That's why he comes out at night ... when it's dark.



**Why is the Joker so dangerous?**

The Joker has no rules. He doesn't care about anything so he has nothing to lose. But Batman cannot become like him to fight him. He must act by his own rules, even when the Joker kills his friends and loved ones. The Joker knows this, and it gives him great power over Batman.

**How did the Joker get his 'smile'?**

Under the Joker's red 'smile' make-up, he has a big scar. How did he get it? The Joker tells a different story every time, but are any of his stories true?

*“When I was a boy, my father thought that I was too serious. He wanted to put a smile on my face, so he cut me with a knife.”*

*“My wife's face was scarred. She felt very sad about it. I cut my own face to make her happy again. But she didn't like my scars, so she left me.”*

**In what ways is Batman similar to the heroes in other action films? In what ways is he different?**



**What do these words mean? You can use a dictionary.**  
**revenge well cave vigilante power scar**