

Littérature anglophone | *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote

Film adaptation (1967) | Oral Comprehension

In the **heart** of America, in a small **rural community**, occurred **[preterit simple]** a crime which shocked **[preterit simple]** the entire nation. A book about this crime by Truman Capote **became [preterit simple]** **a worldwide bestseller**. Now **a motion picture** brings **[présent simple]** this book to the screen: “*In Cold Blood*”. An **appalling** and apparently **senseless** crime. Two apparently young criminals. What **is** the reality behind the appearance?

Richard Brooks, a director of great **forcefulness** **was [preterit simple]** determined to **capture** the reality with absolute **honesty**.

Kansas City – the film company moves **[présent simple]** here. They **got [preterit simple]** it **was [preterit simple]** from this **bus terminal** that the real Perry Smith **made [preterit simple]** a **crucial** telephone call. The real Dick Hickock stopped **[preterit simple]** at this **gas station on the way** to the **fateful** meeting with his partner. In this **store**, the killer **bought [preterit simple]** the **rope** and **tape** with which they **bound [preterit simple]** and **gagged [preterit simple]** their victims.

The **relentless** pursuit of authenticity leads **[présent simple]** **cast** and **crew** to the **actual** city streets, the **sun-drenched** desert **highways**, the **rain swept** country roads and the **garish gambling** towns where the real-life drama **was played [passif]** out.

Many of these same spectators and reporters **were [preterit simple]** in the **sullen crowd** that **saw [preterit simple]** the killers brought to this **courthouse** after their **capture**.

In this **courtroom** they **were tried [passif]** for murder and seven of the **jurors** **are [présent simple]** the actual men who decided **[preterit simple]** their **fate**.

Actor John Forsythe **portrays [présent simple]** the agent who **solved [preterit simple]** the crime. A remarkable **look-alike** for Alvin Dewey, the real-life **investigator**.

These **are [présent simple]** the real killers. These **are [présent simple]** the actors who **play [présent simple]** **their** parts. So **uncanny** **are [présent simple]** the resemblances that they **have said [present perfect simple]** sometimes “*we get the creepy feeling that we really are those guys*”. Robert Blake plays **[présent simple]** Perry Smith. Scott Wilson plays **[présent simple]** Richard Hickok.

The crime **depicted** in “*In Cold Blood*” **took [preterit simple]** place inside this house. It **is re-enacted [passif]** inside this house so that the motion picture itself becomes **[présent simple]** a **terrifyingly** true story of our generation. A generation both **repelled** and **attracted** by violence.