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Fairy Tale

Fairy tales are fantastic stories that have existed for ages. Over the years the stories can change with repeated telling, however there are commonalities that exist. The Disney movie *Aladdin (1992)* is an exemplar of the ‘Traditional Fairytale’. It well exemplifies the 8 elements of a fairytale throughout Disney’s rendition of Aladdin. Disney’s Aladdin is set in Agrabah, presumably in the Middle Ages. Aladdin is an age old story that has been adapted over time, but the basic elements stay the same.

Jafar, who is one of the Sultan’s advisers, wants access to the Genie’s lamp. To do this he must find a person considered to be a “Diamond in the rough”. Princess Jasmine is the Sultan’s daughter who by law must marry by the age of 16. All Jasmine wants is to be free. Jasmine sneaks out of the palace and through a simple act of kindness gets in trouble with the guards at the market. This incident causes her to meet Aladdin and his monkey Abu, who dislikes Jasmine. Aladdin is a “Street rat” who steals to eat and frequently gets in trouble with the guards and with Abu’s help frequently evades arrest. Using this expertise, Aladdin and Jasmine manage to slip away from the guards and find shelter in Aladdin’s measly dwelling. It is in Aladdin’s dwelling where the guards catch back up with the two and Aladdin is arrested. Once Jasmine gets back to the palace she tells Jafar to release Aladdin and is heartbroken when Jafar tells her that Aladdin has been executed.

Instead of executing Aladdin Jafar, disguised as an old man, leads Aladdin and Abu to get the lamp for him. Jafar does this because he believes Aladdin is the “diamond in the rough” who will get the lamp without touching anything else. This is a test for the main characters, an element common to fairytales. After entering the cave Aladdin and Abu discover a living Magic Carpet who Aladdin quickly befriends; Abu is skeptical as usual. The Magic Carpet is eager to help Aladdin and quickly leads the way to the lamp. Aladdin then goes on his own to get the lamp from its perch. While he is doing this Abu can’t resist stealing a gleaming gem. The Magic Carpet attempts to stop him but Abu prevails. The Magic Carpet is a great example of another element of a fairytale: how a mystical being helps the characters. Abu’s reckless action causes the cave to collapse on top of them. With only the Magic Carpet to save them, they fly to the entrance hanging on by one hand. Aladdin gives the lamp to Jafar. As his reward Jafar pushes Aladdin back in to the cave, but before he can do this, Abu pickpockets the lamp from Jafar. They are knocked out afterwards.

Upon reawakening, Aladdin rubs the lamp and awakes the Genie. The Genie is a comical companion who just wishes to be free. He is also and example of how magical beings help out characters in fairytales. The Gene then frees them from the cave and helps Aladdin win over Jasmine. Aladdin first pretends to be a prince but he learns that he has to be himself to be with Jasmine but he still cannot be with her as he is not a true prince. Aladdin and the Gene trick Jafar into becoming enslaved in the form of a Genie. Jafar’s fate is an example of how evil is commonly punished in fairytales. After the Sultan witnesses this he uses his power to change the law to allow Jasmin and Aladdin to live happily ever after. This ending complies with 4 of the common elements of a fairytale. Aladdin is rewarded for his cleverness facing Jafar. Then he is married in to royalty which transforms him in to something better than a “Street rat”; then he lives happily ever after with Jasmine.

The Disney movie *Aladdin (1992)* is a prime example of a fairy tale. It follows a large number of the common elements of a fairy tale, and makes it relevant to today’s children. Aladdin is rewarded for being clever when he defeats Jafar and Jafar is punished for his greed and evil nature. Furthermore the Magic Carpet and the Genie help Aladdin throughout his journey. Additional common elements are shown when Aladdin marries royalty and lives happily ever after. *Aladdin (1992)* portrays the common elements of fairy tales clearly and concisely even after generations of retelling and being adapted in to a children’s movie.

Works Cited

*Aladdin*. Dir. Ron Clements and John Musker. Perf. Scott Weinger, Robin Williams, Linda Larkin. Disney, 1992. DVD.