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Lit. And Film

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Take Home Summative

1. Animation in film has numerous advantages and disadvantages. A primary advantage is the aspect of creativity. With an animation things do not have to be 100 % Realistic, characters can be funny shapes and colors while in film (without expensive post processing) it is limited to what people can do. Animation can be modified to suit the audience and to exaggerate the important elements in a plot. Animation (until recently) has typically been much more labor intensive (for example Walt Disney’s *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*) than traditional film but, with modern animation software a high quality animation can be made relatively easily. Another advantage of Animation is that you do not need to actually film the scenes. Animation can now be changed and modified extremely easily. You do not need to re film a scene if something changes. I can personally attest to this as I made a rudimentary stop frame 30 min animation of a short story in 8th grade. Although animation can remove the human element (like an actors take on something) animators can make up for that. With modern Technology Animation has been thrust in to the spotlight.
2. Animation has had a long and complicated history. Animation as we know it dates back to the early 1900’s after a short history of rudimentary animations made of varying methods without (built in) sound, Walt Disney’s 1928 Steamboat Willy was the first animation that we would recognize as animation by our modern standards. After 5 years of advancements in the field of animation color was added (By Walt Disney) in 1932 and another 5 years later we saw the first feature length animation with Disney’s Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. As I am sure you can tell Walt Disney Studios is, and (almost) always has been one of the most influential animation companies. There is also the lesser known field of stop motion animation where a series of staged photos are taken and played to tell a story. Although stop motion seems neglected in modern times Wallace and Grommet manage to keep the genre alive. Then we see modern animations where we have software that does a majority of the hard work for us creating stunning animations with incredible accuracy and liveliness. A great example of this would be the Toy story Series, or Frozen.
3. Animation can tell a story in numerous ways. It can be just pictures of characters expressing emotion or it could be clay figures moving. Modern animation has a defined plot with the expected exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.
4. Numerous literary devises are used in animation. From personification to foreshowing, really every literary device that can be written with can be used in an animation. Animation is an extremely effective use of the literary devices. You can see the personification with the innocent Pixar lamp. We all know and love him. He seems care free and innocent and then is thrust in the spotlight. We love him and laugh at his personality. A great example of a theme is *Sleeping Beauty*; it teaches you that love can conquer all.in one of my favorite childhood movies, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* you can see allusion fairly clearly. Lavern (gargoyle) references the Wicked Witch of the west in *The Wizard of Oz* when he says “Fly my pretties”. Literally every successful animation has numerous literary devices imbedded in it.
5. All of the elements of film making make animation more effective. Animation truly is a ‘synthetic’ film; by this I mean it is a created film. It must employ numerous elements of film in order to even be considered an animation. Just like in a film, the elements of film when used properly make the animation more effective. In my modern mindset film and animation are judged in the same way and are effectively the same thing.
6. Animated films are usually loosely adapted versions of the original text. They are typically an updated version of the text modified to better suit their audience. They almost always keep the same themes and motifs, but there exceptions. For example you can look at *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. The original text had many darker elements and elements that would have not been politically correct at the time it was made so the film makers modified it. They kept most of the themes but honed in on one of the numerous themes present in the farie tale.