Analysis Of Two Disney Films   **Matthew Connor**

Recently I have been watching two Disney films on completely different sides of the Disney timeline. "Pinocchio" was made in 1940 using cell animation with the story taken from an existing folk tale. "Toy Story" was made in 1995 and it was the first computer generated feature film. This created a whole new genre of computer-animated films such as "Finding Nemo" and the recent "Incredibles". Both of these films use a toy as the main character and as always they both fit into the conventions of any Disney film.

The narrative structure of both films is in some way similar as both of the main characters are separated from home and the films involve them trying to get back. Each Disney film has the equilibrium, a disruption of this equilibrium and finally the successful restoration of this equilibrium (Todorov's theory). The equilibrium in "Toy Story" is when woody is idolised by the toys and he is Andy's favourite. This equilibrium soon gets disrupted when Andy gets a new favourite toy and woody is jealous. Woody therefore tries to get rid of buzz resulting in both of them being separated from home and Woody losing the trust of the toys. The restoration is when Buzz and Woody are best friends and they are reunited with Andy and the toys. One thing different with "Toy Story" is that the story is left with a cliffhanger for a sequel when Andy receives a dog as a present. The equilibrium of "Pinocchio" is when he becomes alive and Gepetto gets the son he always wanted. This is disrupted when Pinocchio is tricked to go to the theatre for money and is therefore separated from home. The restoration is when "Pinocchio" is rewarded for being honest and brave by being turned into a real boy.

In every Disney film there are good and bad characters, this is also the case in both "Toy Story" and "Pinocchio". The good characters in "Pinocchio" are very stereotypical such as Gepetto. He is a typical homely grandfather figure. Jiminy Cricket adds guidance and humour to the film and finally the Blue Fairy is added for beauty with bright ora. On the other hand Sid's toys in "Toy Story" are very unattractive, and at first we are led to believe they are evil, but in fact they save Woody and Buzz. This shows that you should never judge on appearance. As we have good characters there are also evil characters. They are usually portrayed in very stereotypical ways such as an evil laugh or an ugly exterior. Some examples of this is Stromboli the circus owner in "Pinocchio" who is large and intimidating. His eyes are frightening and he is most definitely greedy. Honest John is also evil; he is a sly and cunning fox with a pun on his name. In "Toy Story" the only bad character is Sid. He is horrible, ugly (a brace and an evil laugh) and even he destroys toys. But as in every Disney film the good will eventually overcome the evil.

Another Disney convention is that there are always some "Disney Values" in each picture. In "Pinocchio", "Toy Story" and even "Finding Nemo" one of the morals is that there is no place like home. The "Toy Story" morals are "Not to be jealous" and "Be happy with what you've got". In "Pinocchio" the morals say that you should "be honest and brave and love your family as anything could happen to you or them".

Music is also a Disney convention, which is used in different ways depending on the film. In "Pinocchio" the music is mainly used as songs sung by the characters, this can help to show emotion or the difference between a good and bad situation. But in "Toy Story" the uses of music is less common and is usually in the background and this reflects the moods or emotions of the characters.

Finally both films end with a common Disney "Happy Ending". "Pinocchio" ends with him being reunited with his loved ones and all his wishes come true. "Toy Story" ends in a similar way as Woody and Buzz also are reunited with Andy and also the toys. But unlike in "Pinocchio" romance occurs with Woody and Bo Peep. Overall I Believe both the films follow the common Disney values well and they are both very effective in Different ways.