**Disney Pixar’s *A Bug’s Life* Film Analysis**

**Interpretive Questions**

***Introduction:***

Throughout our discussions on defining life and finding purpose and meaning in it, we have explored some ideas about what it means to find passion, what life is like, and how we can define a successful human life. Most recently, we wrote our letters to Hasbro making our case what constitutes as a successful life. In science, we’ve also been discussing what we consider to even be life (living/nonliving). This all begs the questions then, how do we measure the worth of a life, human or otherwise? How do we know when and if we matter?

These are not easy questions to answer and sometimes we might find insight into them in the least of expected places, such as children’s movies. As entertaining as they are, children’s animated movies are sometimes the most eloquently profound and there can be much to be learned from them. So with that in mind, we are going to conduct a film analysis of a renowned Disney Pixar animated film *A Bug’s Life*.

**Your Ultimate task:**

You will write a **multi-paragraph** film analysis essay which cites **textual evidence** (in this case, the film is your text, as well as some additional resources) to support your central **thesis statement (or claim)** in response to the following prompt:

*How does Disney Pixar’s film* A Bug’s Life *address or answer the question of how can we* ***determine the worth of a life****? Through its* ***characters****, and the* ***conflict****,* ***symbolism, and structure of the text (aspects/details of the film)*** *what messages does it purvey as it pertains to this topic? How does the film’s message to this compare to other texts on this topic?*

**Directions for this planning sheet:**

I am providing you with a list of interpretive questions to help facilitate your analysis of the film in relation to the prompt. You MUST pick at least **THREE** of the questions to answer and **find textual evidence** to support your answer. Use the following guidelines on quotations and the graphic organizers below to help you sort your information.

Yes, there are a lot of interpretive questions, but that’s because there are so many dimensions and ways in which you can approach this film analysis and this question. Remember you are picking **THREE** to answer, but pick three questions that you think might best fit together in an essay or are related. Good luck!

*Interpretive/Analysis Questions:*

1. What is/are the conflict(s) in the story?
2. What is the turning point/climax in the story? Why is it the turning point, and how does that help convey the message?
3. What are the grasshoppers’ attitudes towards the ant colony? Why?
4. What are the colony’s attitudes towards Flik? What are Flik’s attitudes toward the colony?
5. Why is Flik so eager to do things differently?
6. In what ways are Flik’s gifts misunderstood? Dot’s? What other characters are misunderstood?
7. What is the significance of Dot’s character and her other little friends?
8. Who in society might the ants represent? Who might Flik represent? Who might the grasshopper represent? Who might the circus bugs represent? Any other character representations?
9. Why do you think the filmmakers decided to revolve this story around a world of bugs? Why not humans or even a safari?
10. What other aspects or details of the film help contribute to the message it is trying to convey? Consider things like the music/soundtrack, illustrative details or images the animators chose to include, setting, etc., that the filmmakers chose to include or *not* include.
11. What is the significance of the seed (or the pebble) in the movie?
12. What might be some other implicit symbols throughout the movie?
13. What figurative or literary language devices do you see applied in this story? How do these devices help convey the point?
14. Does the ant colony suffer from a lack of diversity? Agree or disagree. Why might that be a good or bad thing?

Writing about quotes requires practice. For each section we read, please find ONE quote and explain the quote. Below in the boxes, I have given you some helpful information to read before getting started.

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| **What is a quote?**   * A quote is any word, sentence, or passage taken from a written text. * The words can be, but are not necessarily, spoken by characters. * They can simply be any sequence of words you take directly out of a text word-for-word. * In expository writing, quotes represent words that are NOT yours, but are words that from another source that might be important to making your point * Whatever appears between quotation marks should be exactly what the text/person wrote or said. | **Qualities of a good quote**   * It is meaningful to you, the author, or the characters. * It is about something important: an event, person, or idea. * You know you can write an explanation of the quote. * It invites/helps you make connections between the text and yourself. * You can discuss your own opinions and/or feelings about the quote. |

***Example***

**Question:** What are the grasshoppers’ attitudes towards the ant colony?

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| **Formal Lead-In** | **Quote/Paraphrase/Detail from the text** | **Explanation** |
| * A crucial conversation between Hopper and his gang of terrorizing grasshoppers indicate the grasshoppers’ attitudes toward the importance of their ant counterparts, | * “ ‘…It was just one ant.’ ‘Just one ant!’ ‘Yeah boss, they’re puny!’ “ (Pixar’s *A Bug’s Life*) | * By using words like “just” and “puny” it is clear that the grasshoppers, except for Hopper himself, believe that the ants are insignificant and are of a lower social status than themselves. This belief appears to be founded on the mere size of the ants and physical prowess of the grasshoppers |

***Directions:*** *Use the following blank charts to help you find evidence in answer to your THREE selected questions.*

***Question:***

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Formal Lead-In** | **Quote/Paraphrase/Detail from Text** | **Explanation** |
|  |  |  |

***Question:***

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| **Formal Lead-In** | **Quote/Paraphrase/Detail from text** | **Explanation** |
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***Question:***

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| **Formal Lead-In** | **Quote/Paraphrase/Detail from text** | **Explanation** |
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