

Film Study Assignment

Purl is a short film made by a group of people from Pixar. The film is about a small ball of material named Purl, who gets a job in an office. The other employees dislike Purl for the way she is and so she changes herself to fit in, later realising that she does not need to change herself to be liked by others. In this essay I will be discussing the various techniques in this film and how they impact upon the viewer.

In the first part of the film, Purl tries to fit in with everyone else in the building who seem to dislike her. The dialogue and voices already show that they do not like Purl, but the camera angles, shots, positioning and movement help to reinforce this. In this scene, (1:17) the way the camera is at a low angle and long shot helps to both focus on the bad body language they are showing as well as make them look intimidating, big, and scary. The employees are also positioned in groups and always seem to be together, while Purl is left alone, showing the audience that Purl is mostly alone and isolated. The camera movement also adds to this, moving around to focus on them and draw the audience's attention to the employees and their body language. The viewers can see the treatment of Purl in this story thanks to these techniques and can then better understand the characters emotions and feelings.



While things such as emotions, body language and positioning are seen throughout the film, the things we hear can also affect us.

The sound, both diegetic and non-diegetic, is a very important part of any film. It can alter the entire theme and can change the feelings we experience while watching.

Purl changes herself in the film to become more likeable, it works but then Lacey, a ball of material similar to Purl, enters the office. Lacey acts a lot like Purl's old self and Purl must pretend to dislike her to be better liked by the employees. After this happens, Purl and the rest of the employees walk into an elevator and begin to leave while Lacey watches on sad and alone. In this moment (6:22) non-diegetic music starts to play, it gives a sad feel to the moment and shows the audience the disappointment Purl feels in herself. When she invites Lacey back, the music turns joyful again, showing that she feels hopeful or good. The diegetic music such as the ding of the elevator, then sound of the elevator opening and closing and the footsteps all add to the realism of the film, making it sound better and adding emotion to the scenes.



The sounds are a big part of this film but there is also one more subtle technique that is used in Purl.

The shadows and colour seem like small details but actually hold much meaning in this film.

At the start of the film, the colours in the office are dull, monotone and mostly black, white or grey (with an added bit of blue in the lighting). These colours are unwelcoming and give the place a formal, unhomely feel. There is also not much lighting apart from the ceiling lights. All of this together make the office an intimidating, scary place. This helps to subtly show the audience how the office is not as accepting



when Purl comes in for a reason. Purl is bright, colourful and different from the rest so when she enters the office everyone is rude to her because they don't want to accept her for being different. (scene is from anywhere in the first part of the film)

Later in the film, we see the office again (7:30). This time though, it is bright inside, not dark anymore. There are lots of colourful people and not many people wearing black suits. It looks a whole lot more welcoming and shows the audience that the office has turned into a happier and more equal place. Most people are wearing different things and there are different varieties of people. This technique in particular shows people that the office accepts that people are different and shows the main message of equality.



Overall, this film uses a variety of techniques from camera positions to colour, sounds and shadows to make the audience aware of the characters emotions and body language as well as showing general equality by using Purl to represent those who are treated unequal to others in society.

