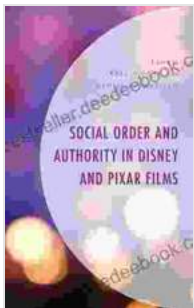# Social Order and Authority in Disney and Pixar Films: Studies in Disney and Pixar Animation

Disney and Pixar films have captivated audiences of all ages for decades, enchanting them with their magical worlds, memorable characters, and timeless stories. However, beyond the surface of entertainment, these films often delve into profound themes that reflect and shape our understanding of the world around us. Among these themes, the exploration of social order and authority holds a significant place. This article examines the portrayal of social order and authority in Disney and Pixar films, exploring how these depictions reflect cultural values, shape character development, and influence audience perceptions.

Social Order and Authority in Disney and Pixar Films (Studies in Disney and Culture) by Bernard Morris

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1228 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 223 pages

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Social Order

Social order refers to the organized system of rules, norms, and expectations that govern a society. In Disney and Pixar films, social order is often depicted as a hierarchical structure, with clearly defined roles and relationships. This hierarchy can be based on factors such as age, gender, social status, or magical abilities.

- ***The Lion King*** (1994): The film portrays a classic example of a hierarchical social order within the animal kingdom, where the lion is the undisputed king. The hierarchy is maintained through the Circle of Life, a concept that emphasizes the interconnectedness of all living things and the importance of accepting one's place within the established order.

- ***Frozen*** (2013): The film explores the social order within the kingdom of Arendelle, where the monarchy and aristocracy hold the highest positions of power. The story challenges traditional gender roles and expectations, as the female protagonist, Elsa, must embrace her magical abilities and overcome the prejudices and fears of her subjects to become a wise and benevolent ruler.

- ***Coco*** (2017): The film depicts the social order within the Land of the Dead, where deceased family members form their own communities and traditions. The hierarchical structure is based on the time of one's passing, with those who have been dead longer holding higher status and authority.

Authority

Authority refers to the power and legitimacy to make decisions, give orders, and enforce rules within a social system. In Disney and Pixar films,

authority figures often play crucial roles in maintaining social order and shaping the actions of the characters.

- ***Beauty and the Beast*** (1991): The film features the character of Gaston, a narcissistic hunter who seeks to marry Belle. Gaston represents an authority figure who abuses his power and uses his physical strength and popularity to intimidate others. His downfall serves as a reminder of the dangers of unchecked authority and the importance of resisting oppression.

- ***The Incredibles*** (2004): The film explores the themes of family and authority through the Parr family of superheroes. The family must navigate the complexities of their dual lives, balancing their personal relationships with their responsibilities as protectors of the city. The film highlights the importance of responsible authority and the need for individuals to use their powers for the greater good.

- ***Inside Out*** (2015): The film takes place within the mind of a young girl named Riley. Riley's emotions are personified as characters who interact with each other to guide her thoughts and actions. The film explores the concept of authority within the mind, as Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust compete for control and influence over Riley's behavior.

Cultural Values and Audience Perception

The portrayal of social order and authority in Disney and Pixar films reflects the cultural values and beliefs of the time in which they were created. These films often reinforce traditional notions of hierarchy and respect for authority, while also exploring the potential for change and individual agency. By examining the social order and authority dynamics within these

films, audiences can gain insights into their own cultural values and expectations, as well as consider the role that these structures play in shaping their lives.
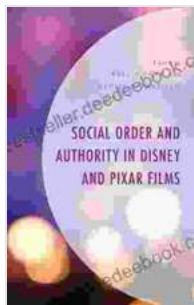
Character Development

The depiction of social order and authority in Disney and Pixar films also contributes to character development. Characters must navigate the established social structures, negotiate their relationships with authority figures, and make choices that shape their identities and destinies.

- *Mulan* (1998): The film follows the story of Mulan, a young woman who disguises herself as a man to take her father's place in the army. Through her journey, Mulan challenges gender roles and societal expectations, proving that authority is not solely defined by physical strength or social status.

- *Ratatouille* (2007): The film tells the story of Remy, a rat who dreams of becoming a chef. Remy must overcome the prejudices of the human world and prove that one's dreams are not limited by social conventions.

- *WALL-E* (2008): The film depicts a dystopian future where humans have become dependent on technology and have lost their connection with the natural world. WALL-E, a lonely robot, becomes a symbol of hope and resistance against the oppressive authority of the tyrannical Buy-n-Large corporation.

Social order and authority are complex and multifaceted concepts that are deeply intertwined with our daily lives. Disney and Pixar films provide valuable insights into these concepts, offering a range of perspectives and

narratives that can help us understand their role in shaping our societies and our own lives. By examining the social order and authority dynamics within these films, we can gain a deeper appreciation for their cultural significance and their potential to inspire, challenge, and entertain.

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