

Death seminar MECS2031

Documentary – The British Way of Death

Clip 1: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/110069>

(12.30 mins) Questions:

1. In the Victorian era, death was the most important event in a person's life. Do we have things that are the most important events in our contemporary life? What have we lost by not focusing on death?
2. What are our rituals of mourning in our contemporary society?
3. What cultural differences exist that you are aware of in relation to death/mourning?

Clip 2: <https://learningonscreen.ac.uk/ondemand/index.php/clip/110070> (4.48 mins)

Questions::

1. Why do you think public mourning happens?

Watch the clips from <http://youtu.be/jxFgp6aLF2M> (12.43 mins) and think about whether we respond differently to deaths when the characters are:-

- a. Animation
- b. Portrayed as evil/ Portrayed as good
- c. Named and individual/Given no name and part of a group or large crowd

We will ask each other some questions in relation to death. Note down the answers to the following questions in your groups with reasons.

Extract from: Laderman, G. (2000) The Disney way of Death. *Journal of American Academy of Religion*. Vol. 68(1), pp. 27-46 (focusing on pages 39-44).

Questions:

1. Do you agree that death or the threat of death is the driving force of narratives in many Disney films? Give examples.
2. What is pathos (p.41)? How does pathos relate to Disney films?
3. p.43 'By the end of many Disney films, the threat of death is vanquished and, most importantly, the integrity of the family is reconstituted and made secure.' What might be the implications of this?

1. Do you think children (you define children/age) should be allowed to watch news where there are images of death? Give reasons for why or why not?

a. Note down how many yes/no responses you get

Number of Yes answers	Number of No answers
GROUP TOTALS	GROUP TOTALS

Note down reasons given.

YES REASONS	NO REASONS GIVEN
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2. Do films where deaths happen make us blasé towards death?

Number of Yes answers	Number of No answers
GROUP TOTALS	GROUP TOTALS

a. Note down reasons given.

YES REASONS	NO REASONS
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3. Do video games where deaths happen make us blasé towards death?

Number of Yes answers	Number of No answers
GROUP TOTALS	GROUP TOTALS

a. Note down reasons given

YES REASONS	NO REASONS
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