

Movie Reflections

Toy Story 4

Toy Story 4 is the fourth instalment of Disney Pixar's original franchise. It's remarkably poignant and should appeal to audiences of all ages - from parents and children to those who grew up loving Woody, Buzz, Jessie, and the gang. There are many new characters this time around, starting with Forky, the sentient arts-and-crafts toy made from a spork, clay, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes.

You can expect lots of high-stakes escapes/rescue missions, some close calls, and very creepy vintage ventriloquist dummies. Most of the film's peril, worry, and violence focus on separation from the toys' new kid, Bonnie, as well as the slightly sinister machinations of Gabby, an antique-store doll who's desperate for a new voice box. The Story throughout includes powerful examples of empathy, and overall the film has touching themes of friendship, loyalty, imagination, and happiness.

(source Common Sense Media)

Happiness

In a recent survey taken by happiness guru David G Myers, only 10-15% of Americans considered themselves to be truly happy. Even in the world's most powerful and affluent nation, the vast majority of people do not know what it means to be joyful. Look at the following list:

- money
- top job
- boyfriend/girlfriend
- Faith
- fame
- dream house
- health
- a great body
- close friends
- loving family

Put the list in order with what is most required for happiness at number 1, down to what is least required for happiness at number 10.

Share your 'top tens'. Discuss the following:



Why you chose the order?
Are all the things on the list reliable (will ALWAYS make you happy)?
Is there anything else they think should have been included?

So many of us still look for joy in the wrong places – particularly material possessions, power and other people. Such things can provide a measure of happiness but will never fully satisfy us.



Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why have you come to this conclusion.

Discuss if there's a difference between happiness and joy. Explain that Joy is describing a deep feeling of contentment that is not dependent on circumstances – happiness is usually a result of our circumstances.

As with the film, much of the characters joy was found in the GOOD relationships they had and not in material possessions.



Discuss In what ways can you invest/prioritise these relationships this week?