

# Educational Themes in The Shape of Water Black Panther and Ferdinand

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## Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to analyze three movies and establish the shift in cinematic entertainment in providing educative values to its audience rather than only entertainment aspects. The aim of the research is to give examples of a movie set that provides actual examples of the application of important values in moviemaking (Ellsworth, 2016). The paper incorporates the analysis of three movies, *The Shape of Water*, *Black Panther*, and *Ferdinand*, with the aim of creating a supportive argument on the shift from the entertainment perspective of movies to educational values combined with entertainment aspects in moviemaking.

## The Shape Of Water

The shape of water has been widely ranked as the best love story of the past decade. In this essence, the movie depicts strong love and affection between the characters. The producer utilizes striking visuals that drive the story. Moreover, the Shape of Water movie explores the fascinating characters with the enhancement of the visuals to clearly overshadow their romantic characters. Guillermo Del Toro's film is sumptuous, poetic, and emotionally complex, and it clearly depicts and sends a message of love to his audience (Del Toro and Kraus, 2018). For example, his story tells of a love story between a mute cleaning lady and a mysterious, inexplicable sea creature. It teaches an important lesson: love has no boundaries, and muteness does not mean non-communication and emotionless.

The shape of water sculpts and blends a series of escalating distinctions, which in turn lead to escalating scenes of romance, beauty, menace, domesticity, rescue, pursuit, and absolute whimsy (Mears, 2018, p. 69). Through the talented ensemble, the scenes are embodied by totally brave performances. For example, in the movie, Richard is depicted as a heartwarming confidant with charming flaws, which are impressive in almost every scene.

The Shape of Water movie teaches the significance of communication. In the story, Guillermo Del Toro analyzes how marginalized people communicate and how their ways of communication change their relationships with other people. For example, the story centers on Elisa, a mute woman who falls in love with a fish man. Elisa communicates in many forms, such as sign language, in order to connect with other people. However, lots of people neglect her; this is shown in the story where Elisa communicates with only two people in her workplace. This shows that she is denied a lot of chances

to connect with other people. Consequently, I ascertained from the story that our ability to communicate refrains us from fear and uncertainties, and in this essence, it is clear that communication is an indispensable gift.

## Black Panther

As compared to other highly rated and classical movies, *Black Panther* by Ryan Coogler is in its ranking. This specific movie has a beneficial message that it sends to its audience. In this reference, the film actualizes this by embracing representation and diversity, which are incorporated into superhero dynamics, hence making the movie a larger franchise work based on a high degree of creativity and innovation. As argued by many movie fans and reviewers, *Black Panther* is full of spectacle, funny, and gripping. Other views indicate that the movie acts as a turning point for the recognition of diversity in movies and the creation of other movies that have “something to say” rather than just making movies for the next installment sales. As a result, travel Studios will “launch Captain Marvel,” which features a female hero next year. Based on the setting of *Black Panther*, the film has met all the criteria of a highly rated and favorite film by many movie fans.

In the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Black Panther* is the first movie that is not all about a white male. White males dominated all the previous entries of the MCU until the lounge of the *Black Panther*. This was after 17 titles, which were in some way characterized by racial boundaries. This is because the seventeen titles revolved around either Western or white superhero characters. Due to the success of the *Black Panther*, the studio is moving towards multiculturalism in their moviemaking as a result of the increasing demand for diversity.

The film is based on African character representation, which by so far remains unique as confined by the MCU movie setting strategies. It has a moral and political complexity, which no other MCU film has ever had before. The uniqueness of the movie is the reinventing of the genre as the movie setting adheres to the entertainment values of the Hollywood blockbuster. In this movie, the director brings the lesson of isolationism, which characterizes culture war in modern society in which intolerance and xenophobia flow rampantly (Coogler, 2018). This is done through the introduction of Wakanda, a fictional African Country in which the issues emerge. In regards to this theme, the director differentiates the movie apart from the previous MCU films by introducing a film that is more substantive and smarter than the obvious superhero yarn.

Ultimately, the *Black Panther* provides its audience with educative and entertainment values throughout the film. It sets out several themes that were not incorporated into the superhero movie dynamics of the MCU. Lastly, although black characters were featured in the film industry before this film, the *Black Panther* gives the pathway for other Black characters to be conceived as regular fixtures but not as token inclusions in the film industry.

# Ferdinand

Bullies in movies, bullies in schools, bullies in the news, bullies everywhere: Enough of such kinds of bullies. The world now needs Ferdinand, a sweet, rare bull breed that stands against competitive rivalry, aggression, and living in conformity with the expectations of other people surrounding us. Relevantly, the story advocates for peace and good relations with other people. For example, in the story, Ferdinand does not dodge the matador in a red cape or lock horns with other bulls but instead stops and smells the posies. Additionally, Ferdinand asks his father, "Can I become a hero without fighting?" This depicts Ferdinand not wanting to be ruthless and mean like his counterparts.

The Ferdinand film teaches people an important lesson: pursuing what matters in our lives. Throughout the movie, Ferdinand convinces the other bulls to pursue their life interests and aspirations rather than agree to be trained to perform against a matador. In addition, the animated movie is filled to the brim with lessons for the audience to learn, especially the young ones (Saldanha, 2017). It instructs people never to let anyone define them, especially in this world under the influence of bullies and pop culture. In the story, Ferdinand urges one of his friends to go against his captor and live freely without fear.

The film also teaches the lesson of change. As the film progresses, most of the main characters transform for the better. For instance, Valiente, who had previously bullied Ferdinand, changes and, in turn, lightens up to Ferdinand. From this, people can learn that sour people can change for the better. Ultimately, in my assertion, Ferdinand is a good movie loaded with great characters and animation, and it is a great lesson for everyone.

## Conclusion

The research has ascertained that films incorporate educational themes as well as entertainment factors in the process of moviemaking. For instance, the *Black Panther* has themes of social revolution, race, and history; these themes are evident in several countries, such as the United States. Subsequently, *The Shape Of The Water* teaches the significance of communication in romantic life, and lastly, *Ferdinand* provides themes on peace, responsibility towards other people, and pursuing one's aspiration, among others.

## Reference

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