

FEEDBACK ON DIAGNOSTIC

1. Many of you got off the topic. You analyzed “The Big Green” (BG) rather than argued for what you believe Kushman would say about BG based upon what he said about the new Disney “Cinderella” (NDC). The topic assumes that you have read and analyzed Kushman. So you couldn’t do an effective job of answering the question if you were not first clear about what Kushman said about NDC. (A few of you ignored Kushman entirely.)

2. On the other hand, some of you decided to say that Kushman would have been just as harsh on BG as he was on NDC. Even though the interpretation of films is not black/white and does not always lead to right/wrong answers, claiming that Kushman would be just as critical of BG would be very difficult to defend. The easiest approach (the one I was looking for) would have been for you to argue that Kushman would have either approved of BG or at least given the film the benefit of the doubt.

3. Your analysis should have considered the that fact that BG presents a set of “messages” that Kushman would probably approve of (based upon his analysis of NDC) and BG remains fairly consistent throughout. In other words, it does not obviously contradict its own messages.

3. Many of you ignored the fact that Kushman is really very generous in his critique of NDC. He has no problem with magic or glass slippers as long as the logic of the film holds up. And even here, Kushman only attacks some of the most obvious cases of inconsistency and stereotyping. Notice that he keeps saying it is important to remember that this is story for children and so on.

4. Even when it comes to contradictions, he points out two types of logical errors. In the first case, the film contradicts what the director says he wanted to do in the film. These are external inconsistencies. The second are the internal inconsistencies, where characters contradict their own statements or actions

5. Since the question does not assume the director of BG made any statements as to her intentions in the film, you can suppose that Kushman would focus on the second type of inconsistency. And given its initial assumptions, BG remains fairly consistent.

6. Some of you said you did not like the racial stereotyping in BG, but Kushman did not really bring up that point in his critique of NDC. Stay with Kushman.

7. You were not supposed to make any personal statements about what you felt about Kushman, BG or NDC. This was a simple objective question.

8. Many of you argued that Kushman would have objected to the deputy being the coach of the team. But you never really defend your position and take into consideration the fact that Anna is new in the country not to mention being new in town, that she makes the deputy run along with the others, etc. The facts seem to indicate that she is "sharing" the coaching responsibilities rather than turning things over to a male as some of you suggested. So your negative arguments don't seem to hold up.

SEE THE HANDOUT ON HIDDEN MESSAGES ON YOUR CD.

FORMAT

1. You should have a title on your paper, but no title pages.

2. You should follow your comp text when it comes to using quotation marks around film titles, book titles, etc. You do not have to use footnotes or formally annotate the films and articles. Simply referring to them by name is sufficient.

3. There were many basic sentence structure errors. You should not have any comma splices, fragments or run-on sentences. Use your handbook.

4. Many of you had problems with shifts in point of view (POV).

5. Many of you exhibited weak and undeveloped paragraphs. There were a number of two and three sentence paragraphs.

6. Some of you turned in papers that were nearly impossible to read. In other words, I was not able to determine the logic of what you were trying to say due to serious problems with sentence structure, word choice, punctuation and spelling. Although I do not ask that you write error-free sentences, I need to be able to understand your papers in order to evaluate them. So please pay attention to your sentence structure.

7. Proof read your papers before submitting them.

8. Remember that in the future short papers will be given the grade of N/C, so make sure you double space and use 12-point type and standard margins as per our handouts.