

CHAPTER 2

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FILM FORM

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What is the term for the relationships among the parts of a film?

- a. pattern
- b. form
- c. structure
- d. plot

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

2. Events that involve characters and that form a story in a film constitute the film's

- a. narrative elements.
- b. stylistic elements.
- c. plot structure.
- d. content.

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Remember

3. Surprise generally results from

- a. an expectation that is fulfilled late in a film.
- b. a predictable pattern in the film's form.
- c. the buildup of suspense.
- d. an expectation that turns out to be incorrect.

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Remember

4. Such elements as traditions, dominant styles, or popular forms that are common to several different artworks are called

- a. traits.
- b. genres.
- c. conventions.
- d. formulas.

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Remember

5. In the judgment of a film's quality, a "criterion" is

- a. an expectation experienced by spectators before the film begins.
- b. a standard that can be applied to many different films.
- c. a critique of the overall artistic value of the film.
- d. an objective evaluation by an experienced film critic.

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

6. What kinds of emotions are most likely produced by expectations that are fulfilled?

- a. anxiety or sympathy
- b. puzzlement or increased interest
- c. sadness or joy
- d. satisfaction or relief

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Remember

7. What is a "motif"?

- a. an important element that is repeated throughout a film
- b. a justification for an element appearing in a film
- c. a reason for a character's actions
- d. an element that creates conflict in a film

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Remember

8. Which of the following is NOT an example of a manifestation of the formal principle of difference in a film?

- a. One character is in a city, and another is in a natural setting.
- b. Two characters clash with each other.
- c. Characters wear similar costumes or hairstyles.
- d. Music varies with changes in setting.

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Analyze

9. Similarities between two or more distinct elements of a film are called

- a. repetitions.
- b. consistencies.
- c. shared traits.
- d. parallels.

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Remember

10. Which of the following is NOT a stylistic element of a film?

- a. the way the camera moves
- b. the use of music
- c. the pattern of narrative events
- d. the arrangement of color in a frame

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Understand

11. A written outline that details the major and minor parts of a film, marking the parts by numbers and letters, is a

- a. script.
- b. segmentation.
- c. form plan.
- d. blueprint.

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

12. A delay in the fulfillment of an established expectation creates

- a. frustration.
- b. suspense.
- c. confusion.
- d. surprise.

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

13. Comparing the beginning with the ending of a film helps spectators to understand

- a. the film's overall pattern.
- b. parallel elements in the film.
- c. motifs in the film.
- d. the film's overall message.

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Understand

14. Which of the following describes a stylistic pattern used in *The Wizard of Oz*?

- a. A tornado leads to Dorothy's journey to Oz.
- b. The characters in Oz resemble characters in Dorothy's life in Kansas.
- c. Dorothy's adventures in Oz result from her desire to return to Kansas.
- d. Colors are used to identify landmarks and locations within the story.

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Understand

15. One convention of narrative form is that

- a. the conclusion of a film resolves characters' problems.
- b. characters sing and dance in the film.
- c. the film features thrilling scenes, such as spectacular car chases.
- d. background information about characters is introduced late in the film.

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Remember

16. Which of the following is NOT a type of meaning that spectators might consider in a film?

- a. referential meaning
- b. declared meaning
- c. explicit meaning
- d. implicit meaning

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

17. Which of the following conventions, common in current films, would have been considered unusual in the 1940s and 1950s?

- a. a slow pace of events
- b. singing and dancing
- c. flashbacks to earlier events
- d. the portrayal of activities that do not occur in everyday life

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Remember

18. Which of the following works is NOT structured around a journey?

- a. *The Wizard of Oz*
- b. *Collateral*
- c. *The Lord of the Rings*
- d. *The Odyssey*

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

19. Which of the following criteria for evaluating a film involves an assessment of how emotionally engaging the film is?

- a. moral criteria
- b. realistic criteria
- c. intensity of effect
- d. originality

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Remember

20. A film is said to be complex if

- a. spectators have difficulty following the story line.
- b. it involves numerous characters.
- c. it invites spectators to think more deeply about their own real-life situations.
- d. it creates multiple relations among many different formal elements.

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Remember

21. A film's "development" is based on repetition as well as

- a. progression.
- b. the film's ending.
- c. motifs.
- d. themes.

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Remember

22. A film without gaps in its overall form has

- a. intensity.
- b. unity.
- c. organization.
- d. development.

Answer: b

Bloom's level: Remember

23. Emotions experienced by spectators result from spectators' perceptions of

- a. how other spectators interpret the film.
- b. the film's use of conventions.
- c. formal patterns in the film.
- d. how closely the film's events resemble those of real life.

Answer: c

Bloom's level: Understand

24. Implicit meanings are sometimes called

- a. concrete elements.
- b. themes.
- c. interpretations.
- d. subtexts.

Answer: d

Bloom's level: Remember

25. Symptomatic meanings result from

- a. the characteristics of a particular society at a particular time.
- b. spectators' ability to relate to characters in the film.
- c. problems that the characters in a film try to overcome.
- d. flaws exhibited by the characters in a film.

Answer: a

Bloom's level: Understand

True-False Questions

26. "Meaning" refers to what a film says or suggests.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

27. Genres are unaffected by conventions.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Remember

28. Emotions represented in a film are usually experienced by the audience as well.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Understand

29. Social "ideology" is the set of values characteristic of a whole society.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

30. Curiosity is a pattern of expectation that results when artistic cues cause spectators to think about events that came before a certain point in the film.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

31. Personal taste and evaluative judgment are virtually the same.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Remember

32. Filmmakers generally strive to create artworks that invite a single interpretation—the one that the filmmaker intends.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Remember

33. In film evaluation, moral criteria are used to judge certain aspects of a film outside their context in the film.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

34. A unified film may leave some questions unanswered or contain some unintegrated elements.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Understand

35. Prior experience has little effect on spectators' expectations as they view a film.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Understand

36. Each major character in *The Wizard of Oz* fulfills a single significant function.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Remember

37. Comedy often depends on creating surprise or cheating spectators' expectations.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

38. Variation is a fundamental principle of film form.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

39. *The Wizard of Oz* has a large-scale ABA form.

Answer: True

Bloom's level: Remember

40. Referential meaning is meaning that is openly asserted in a film.

Answer: False

Bloom's level: Remember

Essay Questions

41. Drawing your examples from the opening sequences of [title of film shown in class], write a brief essay describing how this sequence generates expectations about the film's development. Use concrete examples to illustrate your points.

Answer: Answers will vary

Bloom's level: Analyze

Instructor info: Fill in the title of a film shown in class.

42. How can film form create new emotional reactions in the audience instead of simply triggering practiced ones? Give an example of how the *Wizard of Oz* uses form to override spectators' everyday emotional responses.

Answer: Answers will vary

Bloom's level: Apply

43. Evaluation of films is done on the basis of objective criteria. What are some of these criteria, and how could they be applied in evaluating [title of film or films shown in class]?

Answer: Answers will vary

Bloom's level: Evaluate

Instructor info: Fill in the title of a film or films shown in class. Or, if you keep up on current movies, you might ask the students to use the criteria to evaluate a film of their choice that they have seen recently.

44. What can we discover about a film's "architecture" from analyzing its plot segmentation?

Answer: Answers will vary

Bloom's level: Understand

45. Explain two factors that help create unity in a film. Give some specific examples, drawing on *Film Art*, the lecture, or [title of film shown in class].

Answer: Answers will vary

Bloom's level: Remember

Instructor info: Fill in the title of a film shown in class.