The Little Mermaid

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|  | The Little Mermaid – C.H. Andersen | Film (1989) | Film (2018) |
| PLOT | Folk Tale – A mermaid wants to become a human being so that she might get an immortal soul! | Fairy Tale – 2 different tales – A mermaid wants to be a human being, a girl married to a man  | A mermaid is kept as a prisoner and longs to return to the sea |
| CHARACTERS | Mermaid – announcement of love – It looked as if the roots and the tips of branches were kissing each other.- quiet, wistful (plot like the sun and red flowers around a statue)„a rose-coloured weeping willow tree“- longs for swimings up to surface- its painful to be a girl- religion and faith -> mermaid wants an eternal soul and sees a prince as a way to get it „I would gladly give up my 3 hundred years if I could be a human for only a day and later share it that havently realm“King – less dominant characterWitch - enchantress- not wickedPrince- good, natured- loves her as a sisterGrandmother - ruler- wise advicer - role model | Ariel – a leading character, but also a bystander (relies on strong male caracters – father, Eric)- Obsesed with human - there is not a grandmother, but two helpers – little fish Flounder and seagull Scuttle, the crab SebastianUrsula – a villain- not a mermaid, an octopus MATERIALISTIC TRINKETS- an adventurious and curibus girl- it is not painful to be a girl – it’s funnyMen (King, Prince) – help her | Mermaid (Elizabeth) - tricked into the land- has healing abilities- prefers freedom in the see to love and life at landWizard - vicious- greedyModern family (a girl and her aunt)A PRINCE + A GIRL (with a heart of a mermaid)- a circus and unusual beings (helpers) |
| TIME, PLACE | - deep ocean- paradise underwaterTale of spirituality | - 4-5 days- nature -> beautiful nature- good vs evil- the USA | - the USA, 1930 th- the circus |
| IMPLIED MESSAGE | - in a quest for the true meaning of life --> to find what you yearn for you must be blessed with a higher spiritual power  | - your body is not good enough until it fits somebody else’s standards’.- being beautiful and having the exact body figure society has issued as a desirable one is important in life and essential in love | - MERMAID = GIRL = LIFE it self (cures all illnesses and lives for ever)- psycho-analitical dimension (Birth, growing-up, separation, death- Life is born out of water, lives partially in water partially on land and gets helped. She end in water (the girls swims for health) |
| IDEOLOGIOCAL CONTEXT | - It’s tale can sound as a little brutal in pushing moral of spiritual importance over physical importance, it is ideologically accurate and can be seen as true to the world. | Feminism (URSULA) -> „you’ll have you pretty face and don’t underestimate the impotrance of body language.-The men up there don’t like a lot of blothe is born- They think a girl who gossips is bore– Yeah, on land it’s much prefered for ladies not to say a word....- ofensive for ladies- Women should behave as it is proper for a lady, hold their tongue and use their looks and body and to get best of life of | - a mermaid (a woman) is an outsider, along, kept impri soned- strange, weird. |
| CULTURAL CONTEXT | 1837. Danmark Copenhagen- in Andersen’s era it was very important to be pious and religious! | Good prevail evil- in Disney’s era it is important to be fit and pretty, but submited and silent- love leads to richness | - mermaids are mythical beings which do not belong to real world but rather to the world of the unbelievable.- only rare people can see they |
| END | The ending is tragic but hopeful at the same time with the little mermaid taking her own life but all the while being granted a second chance as a daugther of the air and in that way possibly acquiring her ultimate goal: AN IMMORTAL SOUL. | Jack Zipes – W. Disney made of empire by turning old folk tales into fairy tales.DISNEYFICATION -> Branding on those tales by Hans Christian Andersen, Charles Perault and The Brothers Grimm -> transforms them into stories more or less different -> A Disney original -> An Americal Fairy Tale - colonisation of other nationalFormula: For American Fairy Tales„What is good for audiences for Disney it is good for the world!“ | MERMAID -> - medieval hybrid between a girl and a fish- medieval hybrid between a girl and a bird- „in-between“creature – mythology- fatal for sailors- good singers- ambigurus originNOW – SFFairy tale vs Myth -> a story of supernatural beings  |