



KNOWLEDGE TERM PROJECT

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT TELEVISION PROGRAMMING 345-101-MQ GROUP 334



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knowledge term project

family guy 🡪 season 12: episode 6 “life of Brian”

 Talks about the new world. many topics at the same time, such as family, friendship, overcoming fears and more deeply on criticizing the nowadays societies, how things constantly have changed, old era vs new era, jokes, real world, sarcastic jokes, racist jokes, American lead, bizarre comedy or sense of humor (American humor). It is a serie that consists on a modern American family, they have low values and they are constantly messing up things and then they intelligently find a way to solve their errors.

* (history + time related)
1. Summary of ep: Stuy got a time machine to use as he please. he is a super intelligent baby, but he does not rely his intelligence for good things, rather than to do dumb things as we all did when we were young. he travels to the past to the colonization era. where stuy and his dog give the natives Americans guns and ammo to protect themselves from white people, beating them and changing the whole story of the civilization to the lack of existence of white people in Usa.

when they return to their present, there is a “new universe” they see that everything has now changed. now the natives are in charge of the country. they make fun of the natives because they still look native (long hair, jean jackets, tents as houses and of course looking very native) but they have had success, everything seemed to be alright in their society, even having health care.

they look for the version of themselves in these new universe to see if they could find a new time machine, since the one he had had been damaged on an attack made by natives. they head to the past, again, to prevent Stuy from handing the guns to the natives.

* (friendship + love + drama)

Everything is good now, they head to their era and they are safe. but Stuy decides to destroy the machine since it almost killed them several times... but after, suddenly Brian is killed in a car accident in front of his house.

the family is now looking for a new pet, so they go to adopt one, called “Vinny” who is a little Italian. everybody in the family likes the new dog, he is social, polite and funny. only Stuy does not like him, he is still in love with his friend Brian. but they get to talk and solve their grudges, since they are both going through hard similar times.

Now Stuy has the idea of finding or reconstructing the time machine to get his good old pal back since he cannot live life without him.

1. how original is the story plot? the story plot was not original. what makes this serie original is that there many messages to the audience, is a main message as well as other small messages throughout the whole chapter. Still I have seen series before where the story of the chapter is somehow related to this one. not directly related, but somethings or parts such as the native American community and the current society problems.

we all know that the natives Americans where not threat properly by immigrants even though they were the owners of the land (north America). an example is that they just got their citizenships less than 100 years ago and the first colonization’s were around the late 16 centuries.

in this episode, many topics are brought through comedy, such as the colonization, the natives Americans, white people, feelings, drama, love and friendship over other stereotypes.

1. Many of the attitudes in the show were not the correct ones, we would not take those attitudes in real life. it is transmitted to us through comedy, in a way for us to understand about it and see from another angle, in 3rd person.
* Stuy’s a super intelligent baby, but he doesn’t use that intelligence to his benefit. he has a strong attitude where he does whatever he wants, his parents allow him by not being on his back. still, in the end something comes out wrong and Stuy has to fix it. Stuys friend, Brian dies and he is sad, crying looking for an answer on how to get his friend back. in the end of the episode, Stuy finally gets to talk with Vinny, who in the end shows he wants to help Stuy be happy again.

-Brian: He is a dog that can talk, he does everything with stuy. sometimes telling stuy whether what he is doing is good or bad. he is intelligent but he is a little rat sometimes. when he dies in the chapter, a squirrel comes and kicks him in the head saying “he was not nice”. even though, brian was not a role model, he was the one controlling stuy from not making more stupid things that could change the world. he would never leave Stuy behind, they were best friends. and when he is dying because of the car accident he shows all his gratitude to his family and mostly to Stuy.

* 1. Characters: Yes, stereotypes are reflected on each character.

peter: weird, fat, white dad

Lisa: perhaps the most regular person in the show. Tries to be a regular mom.

Meg: controlled, peaceful white daughter

Cris: dumb white boy. Actually, looks to be a little retarded.

* other stereotypes:

1. natives: they look alike, talk native, use only jean jackets and dumb.

2. whites: most of them are intelligent, work, have family, home.

3. Arabs: good sellers, they sell stuff that not many can find.

4. blacks: thief, not polite, rude.

5. italians: big nose, aggressive, eat a lot, talk like as if was singing.

Writers present stereotypes for us to understand. But in my believe its wrong. They teach that we are classified by colour, race, culture and social statu.s as well as not teaching that we are all different even though we look alike in the exterior.

1. It did not have a laugh track. It was not necessary. In my opinion laugh tracks are useless, they are used in the american comedy. My first time watching american comedy I was like “why do they put that laugh?” I had never heard it on tv before. The show did not make me laugh, it just made me think about all the problems that societies have and where they come from. All these weird characters and weird saids and acts make me think of how society is manipulated through the media.
2. I would say it is okay after 15 years old. There are messages or parts related to more mature things. Such as sex, drugs, delicate topics and a rude language.
3. My personal opinion is , it just made say thank you family for teaching me all the values all these people lack and make jokes of. As well as their categorization, thinking and supremacy. I would only recommend it to people who are actually mature enough to understand this silly comedy. I would not think this is a suitable topic for discussion in class, since it is very weird and hard to understand sometimes and it is easy to misunderstand the message