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### Narrative Analysis: *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989)

The film chosen for the narrative analysis is one of my favorite Studio Ghibli films' *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989). This film is directed by the mind of the magical realist known as [Hayao Miyazaki](#). The common theme of Miyazaki's films is the ability to create storytelling that involves showcasing honest coming of age stories with strong female protagonists that go through self discovery, personal growth and portrays the beauty that the environment harbors once freed by the hands of civilization. His rich storytelling is filled with reimagined Japanese folk tales with deep life lessons for the audience and to feel the love poured into the animation by viewing the details in every hand drawn scene. Interestingly, Miyazaki's incorporation of elements of magic and the wonders of the supernatural serve as vehicles for his profound storytelling within the medium. [Kiki's Delivery Service](#) is one of the unequivocal versions of what I'd call his masterpieces. This narrative analysis delves into the overarching story elements shown through the film's three-act structure, narrative, and the dynamics between characters.

As mentioned previously, *Kiki's Delivery Service* follows the classic three-act structure by firstly introducing Kiki, a witch-in-training on her journey to find where she belongs on her own. This act is the first act that sets up the wants and needs of our main protagonist. In addition to establishing the setting, characters and understanding that [Kiki wants to escape](#) her mundane countryside to be independent, which she experiences in the reality of adulthood. We begin to see

Kiki explore the [coastal town of Koriko](#) and find agency in a small bakery. Initially, Kiki's character arc describes her as a spirited young witch excited to explore and discover her new home. She begins her delivery service and we see the light in her eyes sparkle as she loves to soar, but see moments of her anxiety and insecurities flare up when he comes to [interacting with youth her age](#). As we examine the plot, the audience views a moment when we see the dichotomy of how Kiki is treated by civilians as she displays the powers as a witch that no one in the modern world has witnessed in years. This bleeds into the second act, where the conflict or confrontation begins with showcasing Kiki's internal challenges ranging from viewing her self doubt to learning about her social anxiety. As she is in a new city, she is discovering where she fits in, but she feels like an outsider for a multitude of reasons. Kiki is almost treated as if she was a spectacle. By the way she compares herself with the locals' attire, as her traditional witch attire is drastically different and feels decades behind as she dresses similar to her [older clientele](#). Ironically, she socializes better with her older clientele and as she works her [delivery service begins to self burn-out](#). The climax of the film, in which she notices that she loses her powers and cannot fly or speak to Jiji. This was not what Kiki expected, she truly did what she knew she needed to do in order to survive. We follow her emotional and psychological state as the act shifts into the final act as [Kiki leaves the town](#) to rest with her artistic friend, Ursuala. Kiki's character arc evolves as she surrenders to nature and begins to [receive the support](#) she needs which serves as the catalyst to her growth. This point of the story allows Kiki to understand she knew to find her own inspiration instead of focusing on overworking herself; moments of rest are needed to recharge yourself. As the narrative progresses her journey creating genuine connections and of self acceptance, matures Kiki in a way that she needed, not necessarily wanted. With this character development from the supporting characters as Ursuala and Tombo

in the film, Kiki managed to find her inspiration as her friend Tombo was in danger. She begins to [fly again and her bravery](#) was showcased to the town. The locals began to praise her and accept her. Kiki does not have access to [speaking to Jiji anymore](#), however Jiji was representing her indecisiveness and anxiety. It shows that Kiki does not need to be dependent on Jiji anymore and her confidence has grown.

The film of *Kiki's Delivery Service* truly is a cinematic gem that transcends the genre of a coming-of-age story. We have complex themes, the development of character arc throughout the story and a three act structure with a compelling narrative. This film has the ability to connect to audiences of all ages by inviting them to self-reflect on their own individual journeys. Miyazaki presents this film as a reminder that navigating adulthood comes with its challenges as much as its wins. This storytelling created a nuanced and profound cinematic experience filled with the wonder of magic about finding one's identity.