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9/19/23

Scene Analysis: *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989)

The scene chosen from one of my favorite Studio Ghibli films' *Kiki's Delivery Service* (1989) would be the scene where our main protagonist, Kiki and her love interest Tombo sit alongside hanging out after Tombo's flying invention falls apart, literally. This scene is a pivotal part of the movie in my opinion because Hayao Miyazaki begins to shed light on Kiki's internal conflict regarding her self image of herself, her burnout and how her social anxiety allows her to self sabotage the interpersonal relationships around her through editing and framing within this scene. As I mentioned previously, the scene with Kiki and Tombo begins with dialogue about Tombo's excitement of flying and him expressing his wish to be able to fly as Kiki can. The camera shows a two-shot of Kiki and Tombo framing both of them together capturing their facial expressions of laughter, showcasing their budding friendship and the joy between them allowing the audience to feel their connection. The animators used the techniques of shadow depth of field to isolate Kiki and Tombo from the rest of the background, which gives us a sharp focus of our characters. The scene displays music that highlights the calm and warm feeling. After Kiki mentions how flying used to be fun till she started her delivery service. The audience knows this is true, because previously before Kiki began to feel this way, we saw scenes of the camera panning over the city following Kiki, showing how she is one with herself and feels the most confident. We see how happy Kiki was when flies for enjoyment compared to now where she flies for others, which is a huge contrast within the film. Kiki is magical, therefore delivers

happiness, but a part of her own happiness is taken away in the process; an experience of burnout. This is shown when Kiki says that line and when the camera pans in and closes up to Kiki as she has a somber expression on her face. Miyazaki wants us to notice every detail down to her tone, emphasizing her vulnerability and introspection. It symbolizes Kiki's internal struggle with her responsibilities as a new witch and how something she used to do with ease because it was genuinely euphoric for her is now labor. It reflects back on the themes of the movie regarding growing up and the challenges of turning your passion into your profession.

Yet, it is something Kiki has to do in order to survive in this city as she is on her own now. This is not something Tombo can relate to, but he is empathetic and uplifts Kiki in this moment of doubt. After that tender moment, Tombo's friends arrive in a car interrupting by calling Tombo over. This moment highlights Kiki's social anxiety, because once Tombo runs over to speak to his friends, the camera shifts to Kiki, as her smile fades instantly. Though Tombo invites Kiki over to introduce her and to hang out, Kiki turns him down. The animators showcase how Kiki feels ostracized, uncomfortable as she is shown to fidget with her dress as she stands alone. By showing the physical distance with shallow depth of field technique between Tombo and his friends. At this moment, Kiki looks so small, insignificant almost compared to Tombo's friends that are in frame and taking up space. This is almost a reflection of how Kiki feels about her position within Tombo's life and how she views herself internally; insignificant. The framing conveys her internal conflict and anxiety. Kiki does not even give Tombo's friends a chance, she self sabotages the opportunity to make more friends her age due to her fear of not being accepted. After, we see how she acknowledges this too, when she begins to vent to her cat, Jiji and expresses how everytime she is around a lot of people, she feels like an outsider. The camera focused on Kiki in this scene showcasing how physically and mentally

fatigued she has become. As someone who struggled with social anxiety, I related with this scene because even now I still have my moments of feeling overwhelmed or even worried that people are talking bad about me when I'm in large groups of people. It is not easy especially when you lack confidence within yourself and compare yourself to others, which is something Kiki as she dresses in all 1930's black traditional witch clothing compared to other young girls her age who are wearing vibrant color based in the 1950's. This scene is very reflective of teenage insecurities and how Kiki struggles with her self image, her running away is very evident of her fear clouding her judgment.

In conclusion, I can relate with Kiki because it is something that I had to learn with experience and is a huge part of why I chose this movie. Originally I was going to choose another Studio Ghibli masterpiece, Princess Mononoke, however my love for that movie would have changed if I chose to use it for this assignment and make it work. Therefore, choosing this scene allowed me to examine my behavior within social settings past and present along with analyzing a monumental scene that changes the direction of the film.