Encanto

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“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”

- Marcus Garvey

- Culture is in fact a significant aspect of our identity that shapes our well-being as individuals and communities. The movie Encanto is a very entertaining film, but it also covers a lot of serious topics such as culture, self-acceptance, transgenerational trauma, mental illness and others. Everyone deserves to feel included, loved and represented regardless of where they come from.
Encanto:

Values- family, culture & community

Myth- the miracle candle that was able to give the Mardigle family power

Legends- Bruno (the outcast of the family)

Religion- Catholic church
Assumption:

- The special connection and bond Colombian families have
  - Mirabel being close to her cousins, uncles and aunts.

- Family plays a major role in one person’s life
  - The Madrigals being pressured to always be perfect
  - The pressure leading to identity crisis which is seen in a lot of families around the world.
The directors of the movie Encanto visited Colombia to learn more about the culture and the people. They took the time and patience to be educated about Colombians' cultures by talking to the locals, observing their everyday lives, their clothes, their music, their dance and their food which we definitely see in the movie. They were able to successfully show the Mirrors and Windows that I learned from HUM 260.
- Most of the voice actors were Latin American
  - According to HUM 260 Module 5, “In a study of movies in 2017, people of color made up 19.8% of film leads. (40% of the U.S. population are people of color.)”

- Latino and Hispanic people being represented
  - Most of the time they are are not represented or represented wrongly

- The new generation feeling a sense of belonging and pursue their dream
  - Being able to see themselves on TV makes them feel valued which was not the case just a few years ago
Symbols:

- **Butterflies**
  - Butterflies in movie symbolize of change, rebirth, peace, hope and good fortune
  - The Madrigal family changing throughout the movie in a good way,

- **Casita (The Casa Madrigal)**
  - symbol of the Madrigal family as a whole
  - The Casita started to crumple as the whole family fight due to generational trauma
  - The Casitas broke down as the whole family bond started to break
  - As they started rebuild the house, they were also rebuilding their relationship
  - An important lesson how easily families can be destroyed due to not communicating and passing generational trauma instead of learning from it.
Political Issues

The film Encanto does not offer a lot of commentary on political, social, economic, or cultural phenomena, but it does touch a little bit about the US migration.

- Abuela immigrating with her kids due to violence in her country
  - A lot of immigrants especially Mexican are shamed for immigrating to the US for survival and better opportunities.

- Mirabel being the only one without a gift was shamed for being worthless but she was the one that saved the family at the end
  - Immigrants are always treated unfairly and called a lot of names such as illegal immigrants and aliens.
  - Showed how someone doesn't have to be a certain way to receive love and immigrants deserve rights as much as citizens.
Resources

- https://collider.com/encanto-bruno-plot-hole-explained/
- https://news.northwestern.edu/stories/2022/03/what-encanto-teaches-us-about-immigration-policy/#:~:text=But%20surprisingly%20less%20attention%20has,flaws%20of%20U.S.%20immigration%20policy
Thank you!