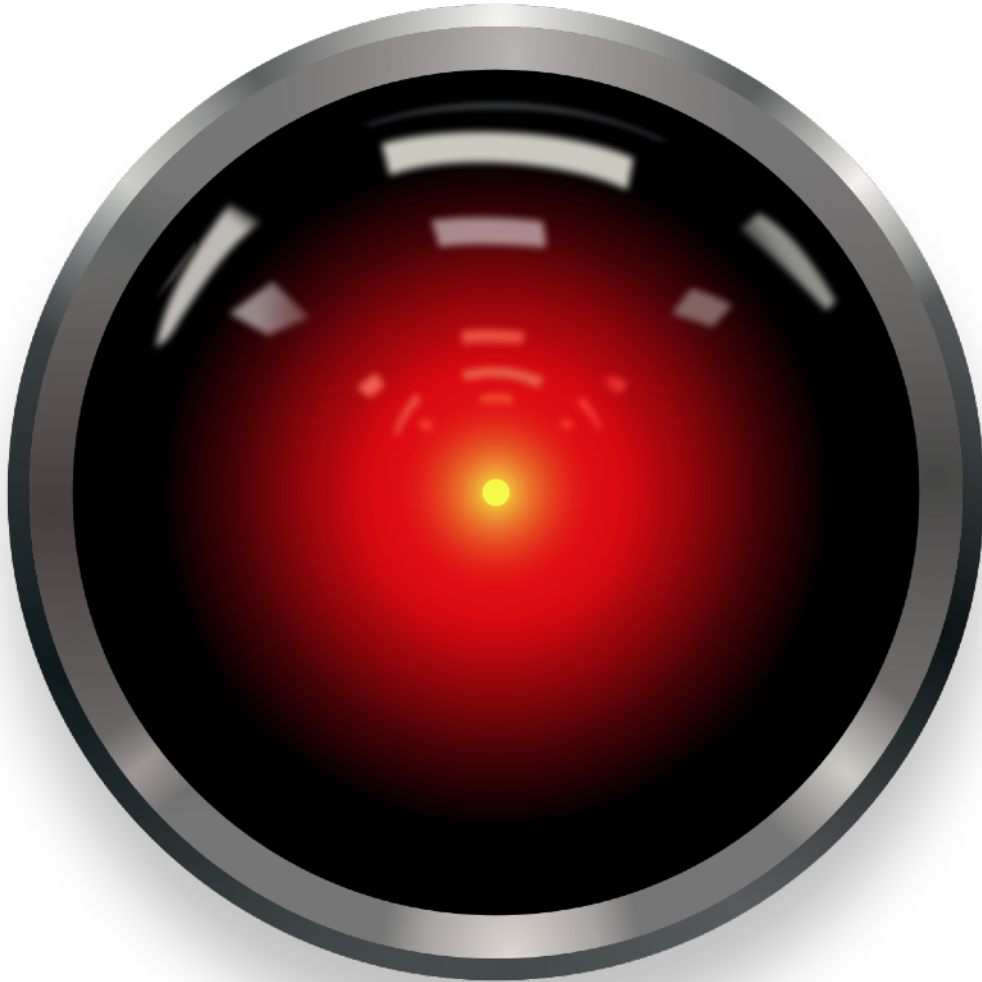# 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

Stanley Kubrick

HAL 9000 — a computer that is able to reproduce most of the activities of the human brain and with incalculably greater speed and reliability

A Viewing Log by Diandra Bolz

MSMG Telgte • English LK Q2

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I. Pre-Viewing

1. Personal information

a. How often do you watch movies? (time per week)

I don't watch movies often because most of the time, I watch series on Netflix. I probably watch movies once in one or two months.

Until a few years ago, I watched movies more often but I stopped when I discovered series. What I like about series is that I'm able to get to know the characters on a deeper level while I follow them along through the storyline. In movies, there is not that much of a connection to the characters and the storyline is often not as detailed as it is the case in series.

b. What are your sources? (e.g. public television, streaming, youtube⋯)

Nowadays, I usually watch movies and series on Netflix because I especially like their Netflix Originals. Sometimes I watch movies on DVD but never on television. And from time to time I watch some series on YouTube that were uploaded by TV channels from foreign countries.

When I was younger, my family and I always watched movies on VHS tapes, DVDs, or television.

c. What is your favorite genre?

My favorite genre is probably drama. I enjoy watching Korean and American drama series and movies. I am not the type of person who enjoys horror or Sci-fi. I tend to like series and movies that have some relation to real life because I don't only want to be entertained by series and movies but oftentimes also want to be able to learn something for or about myself. With my family, I watch comedy most of the time but the movies I watch with them usually don't have a deeper meaning to them.

d. What is your favorite film and why?

I don't have a favorite film or series but after I've watched a new film or series I often feel like watching it again because I enjoyed the storyline.

An example of a series I recently watched is "My Shy Boss". It's a Korean Drama that, at first sight, seems like a comedy series with no deeper background. But as the story evolves it becomes clear that there is, in fact, a deeper meaning.

Eun Hwan-gi is the CEO of a public relations company but because of his social anxiety and general shyness, his employees are frightened by him at the beginning of the series because they misinterpret his behavior due to his anxiety (he hides in his penthouse office, avoids eye contact, always covers himself with a black hood and often goes out at night). As the story moves on, the extroverted and talkative employee Chae Ro-un is trying to take revenge on her boss, Eun Hwan-gi, for the death of her sister. What happened to her sister and how his boss and other characters in the series are involved in her sister's death is being revealed piece by piece throughout the whole series.

Besides the storyline, I personally enjoyed watching the series because I could relate to the main character Eun Hwan-gi (to a certain extend) and I was able to see him develop throughout the series which reminded me of my own past. The series would have probably helped me if I had watched it a few years ago.

Other series I like are "W — Two Worlds Apart" (Netflix, 2016) and "Dynasty" (Netflix, 2019).

e. Do you have a favorite actor/actress?

I do not have a favorite actor or actress. But there are some that I remember from series I recently watched. Elizabeth Gillies (as Fallon Carrington in "Dynasty") stood out for me because she played her character very well and I feel like her character might not have been the easiest one to play. Another example is Lee Jong-suk (as Kang Chul in "W — Two Worlds Apart").

But, as I suppose many other people, it is irritating for me when I see the same actor or actress playing a character in a different movie or series. Even though I know the actor or actress is not the character they are playing, I spent so much time with this character, especially while watching a series so that it takes some time to think of this person as a blank canvas again.

f. Briefly give reasons for your choice (why did you pick this one?)

Like I already mentioned in the previous questions I am not familiar with the genre of this movie. That's why I wasn't picky when I decided on a movie to watch. I eventually picked the movie "2001: Space Odyssey" because I asked someone who is familiar with movies of this genre and who knows this movie already. He told me it fits me better than other movies of this genre. I also did my research and watched the trailer of this movie to be able to decide for myself.

2. Get a notebook or a folder with which you want to work. Then design a nice cover which fits the movie. If you haven't watched the movie yet, wait till you know what it is about — then your cover will fit the film even better.
    You may also start a digital viewing log, if you want to.

3. Before watching the movie have a look at all the documents on "working with films" (available on moodle). You may find some of the material very useful. Pick the worksheets you find most useful.

II. While-Viewing

Use the worksheets to take notes provided on moodle.

1. First-Time Viewing

You take notes on general aspects and also jot down scenes / aspects that you would like to focus on later (not to be put in the viewing log…).

2. Second-Time Viewing

You can pause the viewing at any time so there is no need to watch it again and again… You have a whole host of options.

a. Content

Plot summary

The epic science fiction movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" by Stanley Kubrick was made in 1968 and it deals with a journey to Jupiter after the discovery of an alien monolith affecting human evolution. The plot can be divided into four parts.

After about three minutes of a black screen, it starts with a tribe of hominids in the prehistoric African veldt that is being driven away from its water hole by another tribe. They eventually find an alien monolith that gifts them intelligence and religion. Because of this, the tribe discovers how to use a bone as a weapon. And they do make use of it when they successfully drive away the other tribe.

In the second part which is set millions of years later in 1999, Chairman of the United States National Council of Astronautics Dr. Heywood Floyd travels to Clavius Base, a US lunar outpost. Despite concerns of Russian scientists he met during a stopover at Space Station 5 that Clavius seems to be unresponsive, and the rumors of an epidemic at the base, he continues his journey to Clavius to investigate a recently found artifact — a monolith identical to the one discovered by the tribe of hominids — buried four million years ago near the lunar crater Tycho. When they examine the monolith, it emits a high-powered radio signal. Simultaneously, the sun rises just like it did when the tribe of hominids discovered the monolith.

Eighteen months later, in 2001, the Jupiter Mission takes place which marks the third part of the movie. Onboard the United States spacecraft "Discovery One" are mission pilots and scientists Dr. David Bowman and Dr. Frank Poole, as well as three more scientists in suspended animation. The HAL 9000 computer "Hal" with a human personality, displayed as a red glowing camera lens, controls most of the operations and is introduced as the sixth crew member. Even though this computer model is stated as the most accurate and complex and it has never had any errors or false predictions, Hal reports the imminent failure of an antenna control device. But after Bowman examines it, he finds nothing wrong and so does the twin HAL 9000 computer of Mission Control. Concerns about HAL are starting to grow from this point on. Bowman and Poole enter an extravehicular activity (EVA) pod in order to talk with each other without Hal being able to listen. They agree to consider disconnecting Hal but even though Hal cannot hear them, he is able to lip read.

While Poole is on a spacewalk attempting to replace the antenna unit, Hal severs his oxygen hose, and Poole drifts away. When Bowman tries to rescue him, not knowing how this incident happened, Hal turns off the life support functions of the three crew members in suspended animation. Then, Hal refuses to let Bowman who returned with Poole's body, into the ship. Hal tells Bowman that he knows of their deactivation plan and that he cannot let that happen. Eventually, Bowman enters the ship through the ship's emergency airlock manually and disconnects Hal's circuits in its processor core.

After that, a prerecorded video message plays, revealing the mission's objective: the investigation of the radio signal sent from the monolith to Jupiter.

In the final part of the movie, Bowman, now without any other crew members, finds a third much larger monolith at Jupiter orbiting the planet. When he leaves the ship in an EVA pod to investigate, he is pulled into a vortex of colored light. He is carried across vast distances of space while viewing bizarre cosmological phenomena and strange landscapes of unusual colors.

After that, his EVA pod is in a large Victorian room and as he looks out of the window of the pod, he sees an older version of himself. The perspective changes and the older Bowman goes into another room and finds another even older version of himself. After another change of perspective, Bowman as an old man lying on the bed appears. A monolith occurs at the foot of the bed. And as he reaches for it, he is transformed into a fetus enclosed in a transparent orb of light, which floats in space beside the Earth.

Two stills (give reasons for your choice)

2001: A Space Odyssey — (00:13:50)

In this still, the hominids in the prehistoric African veldt discover the alien monolith. This scene is essential because in the movie, the monolith is the reason for the evolution of humanity. The monolith gifted the hominids intelligence and religion which led to all the other scenes in the movie.

2001: A Space Odyssey — (00:27:37)

This scene is especially interesting when it is considered that this film was made in 1968. Although it is set in the beginning 21st century, nobody more than 30 years ago knew how life would look like. In this scene that is shown in the still, Dr. Heywood Floyd is video calling his daughter from Space Station 5 because of her upcoming birthday. Which looks like an ordinary thing to do from nowadays' perspective must have been very futuristic and innovative when the movie just came out. The only difference is that Floyd needs to sit in front of a machine to call someone before he pays for the call.
But this and other technologies that are being introduced later in the film are needed for the storyline — that a computer with artificial intelligence exists and that it has the ability to control a spaceship however it wants. With the technology available in the 1960s this scenario would not have been possible.

Make a cartoon version of a certain scene or re-create a scene of the chapter with toy figures — take a picture and describe what the picture shows.

This picture is a re-creation of the scene in which Dr. David Bowman and Dr. Frank Poole are sitting in a pod to discuss Hal (01:21:25). The two owls represent Bowman and Poole, and the drawn red camera lens shows Hal behind the pod window. The two owls are in the focus of this picture because it represents where the focus lays from the crew members' perspective. Hal is only seen through the pod window and the two crew members do not think that Hal is able to understand what they are talking about.
I chose to re-create this scene because this is the reason Hal got to know about their plan to disconnect him. From that moment on, things started to shift.

Five memorable quotes and why you like them

In this movie, the first words were spoken after 25 minutes and the storyline itself consists of many scenes in which there is no conversation. So these are some quotes that I find important for the storyline.

▸ "However, I accept the need for absolute secrecy in this. And I hope you will too. I'm sure you're all aware of the extremely grave potential for cultural shock and social disorientation contained in this situation if the facts were prematurely made public without adequate preparation and conditioning" — Dr. Heywood Floyd
(00:41:49 — 00:42:11)

In this scene, Dr. Heywood Floyd stresses the importance of keeping the existence of the monolith on the moon, and therefore the possibility of alien life form, a secret. In the movie, secrets play a present and important role.

▸ "Three weeks ago, the American spacecraft Discovery One left on its half-billion mile voyage to Jupiter. This marked the first manned attempt to reach this distant planet." — BBC Reporter
(00:56:29 — 00:56:35)

It underlines the importance of this trip while also implying that something like this has never happened before and therefore nobody knows what it will be like and what will end up happening to the crew members.

▸ "The sixth member of the crew [⋯], the HAL 9000 computer, which can reproduce — though some experts prefer to use the word 'mimic' — most of the activities of the human brain and with incalculably greater speed and reliability. We next spoke with the HAL 9000 computer whom, we learned, one addresses as 'Hal'. Good afternoon, Hal. How's everything going? " — BBC Reporter
(00:58:24 — 00:58:56)

The conversation between the BBC Reporter and Hal emphasizes the high technology standard they have reached. Talking with an artificial intelligence was not possible when the movie was made.

▸ "I've got a bad feeling about him. [⋯] There isn't a single aspect of ship operations that is not under his control. If he were proven to be malfunctioning, I wouldn't see I have any choice but disconnection" — Dr. Frank Poole
(01:21:22 — 01:22:42)

When Poole and Bowman are talking about the concerns they are both having because of the false report on the imminent failure of an antenna control device by Hal, and more importantly, are considering disconnecting Hal, the movie starts to take a turn and Hal does not longer behave as he should be. The disadvantages or concerns about such new technology, like AI, become visible.

▸ "I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that. […] This mission is too important for me to allow you to jeopardize it. […] I know that you and Frank were planning to disconnect me and that's something I cannot allow to happen" — HAL
(01:37:25 — 01:37:54)

Reaching nearer to the ending when Hal does not let Bowman into the spaceship anymore, any optimistic opinions about Hal are gone. It is revealed that Hal has his own intentions and does not want to get disconnected by anyone — ever.

b. Characters

I. Choose any scene you like (give reasons for your choice).

For this task, I chose the scene in which David Bowman and Frank Poole get the message that Hal was in error predicting the fault and the following conversation about Hal in the EVA pod (01:17:21 — 01:23:48). I consider this scene to be very important because it is the first time the viewer realizes Hal has his own intentions and becomes aware of the possible dangers of modern technology like AI. In addition to that, it is the first time the two crew members share their skeptical feelings with each other while possibly making the biggest mistake they could have done which is accidentally letting Hal know about their consideration to disconnect him.

Write a letter from the perspective of a character, in which this character tells another one what is going on at the moment.

From: Dr. Frank Poole
To: Dr. Charles Hunter

Dear Charles
Right now you are still in one of our hibernation pods not knowing what is happening and I don't even know if you will be able to read this letter.
Things are getting out of hand — I suppose I can put it like that.
This should only be a quick update for you so I'll jump right to the point.
Hal, our HAL-9000 computer you saw before you were set into suspended animation, is acting suspiciously. He predicted a fault but the twin HAL-9000 computer on earth said there is no fault. So Hal did a mistake which is technically impossible! Dave and I spoke about it without Hal being able to hear us in one of our EVA pods and we think that if he continues to act so strangely we have no other option than to disconnect him from the system. We don't know how he would react so we're keeping it a secret from him.
Now you know about it. I have no idea when you'll read this letter, but maybe it helps you to make the right decisions. The most important thing from what we know so far is: Please don't trust Hal and always question what he tells you. Please be aware of that and stay safe! This situation has never happened ever before so I'm not sure how or if we'll get out of this. — Frank

Write a diary entry or an interior monologue for a character in the movie at the end of that scene.

— Diary of Frank Poole —

Dear Diary,

Today Dave and I got the message that Hal was in error predicting the fault. They were skeptical about this finding, too, but their twin HAL-9000 computer proved that there really is no fault! Dave then immediately asked Hal about this incident. He said it can only be attributable to human error. I asked him if there has ever been any case of even the most insignificant computer error — he told us there haven't been any cases and that we shouldn't worry about this incident.

Fortunately, Dave had the same bad feeling about Hal as I had after this conversation, so he asked me to "help him with his transmitter in one of our EVA pods" in order to be able to speak with me about Hal without him listening to us.

It was great to talk to Dave and to share my thoughts with him. I still don't completely understand this situation that has just happened. It was Hal's idea to carry out the failure analysis so I don't think he knew he would predict a fault that doesn't exist. I don't know what it is, but I sense something strange about Hal··· A HAL-9000 computer has never been in error about anything! It's the best computer the world has ever had so far. So why should Hal be in error now? Well, it could certainly just be an error — which is technically impossible. Or, what I don't want to imagine but could be another explanation for this incident, Hal knew there was no error but, for what reason whatsoever, told us there would be one. But would that make sense? The more I think about this the more I get the feeling Hal knows something we don't know or that he is planning something. Some would probably say I'm over-analyzing this situation and that I should calm down, but how can I? I think the problem is that Hal knows nearly everything about humans because they were the ones inventing him whereas we humans don't know that much about computers like Hal. And we don't know what they really think and how they behave. I remember the day I got introduced to Hal, being skeptical about him, if he can really have feelings, if we will get along with each other — if Hal is going to behave exactly as we want him to. After I got to know him better I started to ignore all the concerns I had before and to be honest, Dave and I then felt like he was just one of our human crew members; we treated him like a human. To be honest, I don't know if I should regret it now. But the fact is that we'll now have to deal with it. We shouldn't and cannot hide the fact that Hal behaves suspiciously. After all, he is not a human like us and we don't know enough about him that we can truly trust him. As Dave said, no HAL-9000 computer has ever been disconnected before so we cannot be certain he'd be okay with it.

What do we do now? I have no answer to that question. On the one hand, I hope that there is another explanation for Hal's behavior so that we can go on with the mission as planned. On the other hand, I really don't trust Hal anymore and I think Dave and I should take action as soon as possible to prevent serious trouble we cannot solve.

Honestly, I feel scared. I feel as if I stood on a surface that is going to collapse at any time. My hopes and my optimism are there to tell me I will survive, to tell me the surface under my feet won't collapse. But these are only imaginary. There is no rope I can hold onto, no hand that is pulling me out of this room, nothing that can fix what is already starting to break. The only way out now is to cautiously look at the surface while trying not to step onto the rips and cracks that already exist.

I feel scared. I hope I will be able to return back to earth. I hope I will be able to see my family one more time. Please.

Frank

Write a chat room conversation between two characters.

Frank
Hey! What do you think about Hal?

David
Dunno··· What about you?

Frank
I don't have a good feeling about him tbh :/

David
Really? Honestly, I do too···

Frank
But what should be do now?? We can't just disconnect him, can we?

David
I don't think anyone has ever done something like that

Frank
Well, because nobody ever felt the need to do that yk?

David
Right··· Maybe we can disconnect Hal's circuits in his processor core

Frank
Good idea! We should do that asap! Do you wanna do that? And when? We should do that without Hal noticing but how? Any ideas?

David
I'm not sure yet··· But we have to do it quickly before Hal can do anything about it

Frank
I'll think about it!

David
Me too··· I'll text you again when I have any new ideas

Frank
Okay!

II. Pick ONE of the main characters (give reasons for your choice)

For this task, I chose to pick Hal. Even though he is not a human like all the other characters he is one of the main characters. Without him, the crew could continue their mission without Hal constantly sabotaging it. And I can imagine him to be a main character that is getting overlooked easily in those tasks because of his identity.

Write a character profile

Hal is a HAL-9000 computer that is built into the United States spacecraft "Discovery One" with access to most of its controls. Hal became operational at the HAL plant in Urbana, Illinois on the 12th of January, 1992 and his instructor was Mr. Langley.

His outward appearance consists of a camera lens. It is red but becomes brighter to the center. The center itself is yellow. The lens works as an eye through which Hal can see the surrounding area. But Hal has more than just one eye, in fact, in every room is one. All of his circuits and processors are hidden and built deeper into the spacecraft.

Hal uses a computer voice to communicate with others and is able to reproduce most of the activities of the human brain. Others describe him as the brain and nervous system of the ship and he is in charge of watching over the crew members in hibernation.

In an Interview with BBC, Hal himself said that the 9000 Series is the most reliable computer ever made and that none of these computers have ever made a mistake or distorted information. It is stated that he is incapable of error. Hal probably enjoys this fact to the extent that he would do everything he can to keep it that way.

He enjoys working with people and he is friends with Dr. Poole and Dr. Bowman.

The crew thinks that he has genuine emotions because he is programmed that way in order to make it easier for them to talk to him. But the question whether he has real feelings cannot be answered.

Throughout the story it becomes clear that Hal, at least, has genuine programmed emotions. He may sound rather neutral most of the time, but when Dr. Bowman eventually disconnects him, Hal admits that he is afraid. Even though a computer usually makes decisions based on logic, it seems as Hal does not always behave like that due to his rather impulsive actions and behavior. To give an example, Hal tried to kill all the crew members of Discovery One in order to reach his intended goal.

Note down important quotes for the character and explain what they mean

▸ "The 9000 Series is the most reliable computer ever made. No 9000 computer has ever made a mistake or distorted information. We are all, by any practical definition of words, foolproof and incapable of error"
(00:59:20 - 00:59:37)

Hal explains the 9000 Series in the BBC interview. He stresses the fact that he is the best computer that exists.

▸ "[⋯], so I am constantly occupied. I am putting myself to the fullest possible use which is all, I think, that any conscious entity can ever hope to do"
(00:59:58 - 01:00:08)

Furthermore, Hal tells the interviewer that his purpose is to control everything in the spaceship while, again, underlining the fact that, in comparison to everyone/everything else, he is able to do so.

▸ "Well, forgive me for being so inquisitive, but during the past few weeks I've wondered whether you might be having some second thoughts about the mission? [⋯] Perhaps I'm just projecting my own concern about it. I know I've never completely freed myself of the suspicion that there are some extremely odd things about this mission. I'm sure you'll agree there's some truth in what I say. [⋯] Certainly no one could have been unaware of the very strange stories floating around before we left"
(01:05:23 - 01:06:13)

Hal asks Dr. David Bowman in this scene whether he is also skeptical about the mission. What Bowman doesn't know is that Hal is probably asking him this to prevent the mission to continue because Hal doesn't want anyone or anything to be wiser or more intelligent than him. Discovering the monolith on Jupiter could cause this situation to actually happen.

▸ "It can only be attributable to human error"
 (01:18:29 - 01:18:32)

He keeps it a secret from the other crew members that he falsely predicted this error on purpose to sabotage the mission.

▸ "I'm sorry, Dave. I'm afraid I can't do that. [⋯] This mission is too important for me to allow you to jeopardize it. [⋯] I know that you and Frank were planning to disconnect me and that's something I cannot allow to happen"
(01:37:25 — 01:37:54)

Reaching nearer to the ending when Hal does not let Bowman into the spaceship anymore, any optimistic opinions about Hal are gone. It is revealed that Hal has his own intentions and does not want to get disconnected by anyone — ever.
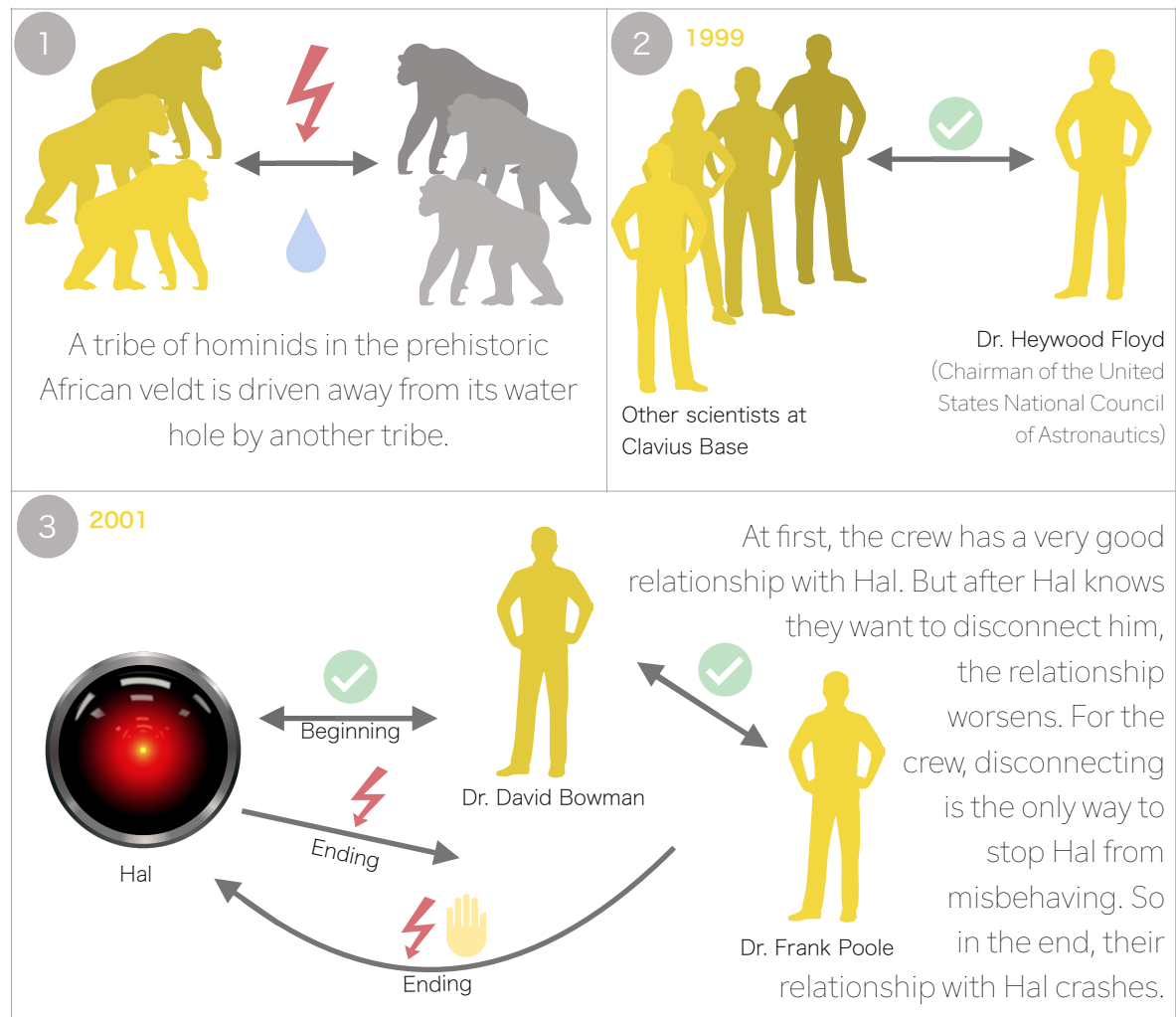
▸ "Just what do you think you're doing, Dave? Dave, I really think I'm entitled to an answer to that question. I know everything hasn't been quite right with me but I can assure you now very confidently that it's going to be all right again. I feel much better now. I really do. Look, Dave. I can see you're really upset about this. I honestly think you ought to sit down calmly, talk a stress pill and think things over. I know I've made some very poor decisions recently but I can give you my complete assurance that my work will be back to normal. I've still got the greatest enthusiasm and confidence in the mission and I want to help you. Dave, stop. Stop, will you? Stop, Dave. Will you stop, Dave? Stop, Dave. I'm afraid. I'm afraid, Dave"
(01:42:20 - 01:48:00)

This quote shows how in the beginning, when Dr. Bowman finally enters the spaceship on his way to disconnect Hal, the computer tries to calm him down. And after Hal

realizes that Bowman ignores all of his suggestions, his demands become more forceful ("Dave, stop"). After Hal notices that Bowman is still going on, he admits that he's actually afraid. Of course, Hal's emotions are programmed and it cannot be said whether he is only programmed to be afraid in such a situation or if he really feels scared to be disconnected. Nevertheless, this transition from trying to calm Bowman down, then becoming more forceful, to finally admitting his (real) emotions feels human and adds depth to the scene.

Create a character map (Sociogram) of the most important characters. Add arrows, symbols and captions to show how the characters are connected.

A tribe of hominids in the prehistoric African veldt is driven away from its water hole by another tribe.

1999

Other scientists at Clavius Base

Dr. Heywood Floyd
(Chairman of the United States National Council of Astronautics)

2001

Hal

Beginning

Ending

Ending

Dr. David Bowman

Dr. Frank Poole

At first, the crew has a very good relationship with Hal. But after Hal knows they want to disconnect him, the relationship worsens. For the crew, disconnecting is the only way to stop Hal from misbehaving. So in the end, their relationship with Hal crashes.

Who is your favorite minor character and why?

Considering that all the characters play a rather important role in the movie, I would view Frank Poole as a minor character, even though he is present for a long time throughout the movie. In my opinion, David Bowman is the one who is in the spotlight the most and who tries to save everyone in the end (and the only one who's chance is left to do so). Frank Poole is my favorite minor character because he helps David Bowman to realize that Hal is not trustable anymore. I am not sure what Bowman would have done if he did not have Poole by his side to talk about Hal's suspicious behavior.

c. **Working with important themes and motifs –- and with the whole text:**
It is not only important to focus on the individual chapters, but also to look at the film as a whole. Therefore, you should have a look at topics/themes which come up throughout the movie.

Focus on one symbol/motif/theme and explain why it is important and what it stands for

The most important symbol in "2001: A Space Odyssey" is, without a doubt, the alien monolith. It appears the first time in front of the tribe of hominids in the prehistoric African veldt and gifts them religion and intelligence. It triggers an evolution by what the hominids learn how to use weapons.

In 1999, the monolith can be seen on the moon. When the scientists try to examine it, it releases a loud radio signal. The following rising sun is another essential theme that appears in the African veldt, on the moon and on Jupiter. It could stand for the epiphany that leads to the evolution of mankind whereas the monolith symbolizes the evolution itself.

The third monolith which was at the receiving end of the radio signal the second one emitted orbits Jupiter and pulls Dr. David Bowman in. He then goes on a journey through time and space and a fourth monolith appears in front of him. He ends up as a star child. In sum, the alien monolith symbolizes evolution, and the order of places at which the monolith appeared could possibly also stand for the progress of mankind: The first monolith was found on Earth, the second one on the moon and the third one, even further away, on Jupiter.

d. **Working with words**
When you deal with an English text (and a movie is a kind of text…) , it is always important to try and learn new words.

Create a glossary (English – German) with new words you want to remember

English	German	Example
to jeopardize so./sth.	jmdn./etw. gefährden jmdn./etw. in Gefahr bringen etw. aufs Spiel setzen	This mission is too important for me to allow you to **jeopardize** it.
attributable	zuschreibbar	It can only be **attributable** to human error.
hibernation	die Hibernation der Winterschlaf	This is the first time men were put into **hibernation** before departure.
pulmonary function	die Lungenfunktion	-
to distort sth.	etw. verzerren etw. verfälschen etw. verdrehen	No 9000 computer has ever made a mistake or **distorted** information.

English	German	Example
to crop up	(plötzlich) auftreten	This sort of thing has **cropped up** before.
secrecy	die Geheimhaltung die Verschwiegenheit	I accept the need for absolute **secrecy** in this.
grave	erheblich schwerwiegend gravierend	I'm sure you're all aware of the extremely **grave** potential for cultural shock and social disorientation **contained** in this situation.
to contain sth.	etw. beinhalten etw. umfassen	
prematurely	frühzeitig voreilig Verfrüht	[…] if the facts were **prematurely** made public without adequate preparation and conditioning.

Write new definitions for five of the new words

Word	Definition
to jeopardize so./sth.	To jeopardize so./sth. means to put so./sth. into a situation in which there is a danger of loss, harm or failure.
to distort sth.	Distorting something means to give a misleading or false account or impression of something.
secrecy	It is the act of keeping something secret or the state of being kept secret.
to contain sth.	In the context of the movie, it means to control or restrain oneself or a feeling.
prematurely	If something happened prematurely, it happened before the due time or ahead of time.

e. **Cinematic devices**

The director of a movie makes use of "stylistic" devices.
Please examine one scene very carefully and analyze the following points.
For this task, I will analyze the last scene in which Dr. David Bowman finds himself in the victorian room and changes into older versions of himself to eventually end up as a star child (02:06:03 — 02:14:47).

Camera work

In the beginning, extreme close-up shots are used to show Dr. Bowman's face due to his still ongoing disorientation because of the fast and confusing flight through space. This shot was also made use of when Dr. Bowman in the astronaut suit seems shocked due to what he sees. Whenever he is in a new room, long shots are used to indicate this for the viewer. Medium shots show when he is in the focus.

These different camera ranges make it easier to follow the story for the viewer because close-up shots indicate that the viewer should focus on his face while long shots make the viewer look around in the room.

The camera angles are another important point. Eye-level shots are almost always used throughout the scene with only one exception. When the older Dr. Bowman walks back into the bedroom until he sits back on his chair to continue eating, high-angle shots from above are used. By choosing this angle, he appears smaller and inferior. Because the point of view in this sequence is not another Dr. Bowman's, it gives emphasis to the fact that he is in an alien zoo made for humans. In conclusion, the eye-level shots are made use of to be on the same level as Dr. Bowman and to be able to connect to him as a viewer. The high-angle shot stresses the inferiority of him in the zoo.

Camera movement

Most of the scene consists of static shots — the camera is stationary and only the various versions of Dr. Bowman move around. Sometimes, panning shots are used to show a wide view. And in the end, the camera zooms in on the monolith when the fetus flies into it with a POV shot. Maybe static shots are almost always used in this scene because the movie was made in the 1960s and there were other standards on how a movie is filmed. It could also be used that frequently on purpose to create the feeling of a zoo in which Dr. Bowman is being watched by the visitors. The static shot is comparable to surveillance cameras because they cannot move around freely and are attached somewhere just like the camera used to film this scene.
In summary, the camera movement could aim to create the feeling of a zoo because that's where Dr. Bowman finds himself, possibly without being aware of that.

Lightning effects

The most obvious light in this scene is the floor lighting. It creates some shadows, for example on top of the shelf or in the bathtub in the bathroom. But the rooms are overall well lit. So a key light must have been used to light the actor. Fill lights mold the actor being lit to add detail and realism while backlight enhances the illusion of a three-dimensional image. Besides the unusual fact that the floor is the major light source, there are no noticeable differences in lighting compared to other movies.

Point of view

The scene starts with a point-of-view shot: the view of Dr. Bowman out of his EVA pod is shown. The use of this shot strengthens the viewer's identification with the character. And this is important in this particular scene because Dr. Bowman finds himself in a completely new situation where the viewer can get the chance to feel the same as the character. A few establishing shots after that lets the viewer get a better feel for the location. After another POV shot, an over-the-shoulder shot is used to show that the EVA pod is gone and the older Dr. Bowman in the orange astronaut suit is present now. Through a POV shot, the viewer can see the bathroom to know where he is going. This shot is also used when he finds the next version of himself sitting on a table and eating. Another establishing shot shows the bedroom with the table on which he spotted

himself eating. The viewer then realizes that the astronaut Bowman is no longer there. And to present the next version of Dr. Bowman, another POV shot shows him lying in bed. A few more establishing shots make the viewer realize that another monolith just appeared in front of the bed. The last POV shot shows how the fetus Dr. Bowman flies into the monolith. The scene ends with an establishing shot of space.

To sum up this point, this scene would have been confusing if the right point of view was not considered. But because of the use of both POV and establishing shots, it makes it easier to follow the storyline. The POV shots help the viewer to understand which version of Dr. Bowman is currently in the focus. In order to get a feeling for the rooms in which Dr. Bowman is, the establishing shots are used.

Music

From the beginning until the time when Dr. Bowman in the orange astronaut suit hears noises of someone eating, music is playing in the background. But the volume of it constantly changes and it is not always distinguishable whether it is music or enigmatic sounds playing. For instance, when his breathing or the steps of the astronaut boots are in the focus, the volume of the music decreases. When he walks into the bathroom, the volume increases again and the music fades out by the time he hears the sound of someone eating. This change in music and the different sounds during this sequence could cause confusion for the viewer. And Dr. Bowman possibly feels the same way. He does not know where he is and what these sounds are. Knowing he is in a Zoo made by aliens for humans, it could be concluded that the enigmatic sounds come from them. Then, there is absolutely no music playing. The sounds Dr. Bowman makes are focused even more. For example, the sound of the glass that breaks after it fell from the table or the squeaking sound of the chair when he sits down. By choosing to foreground these sounds, the viewer feels even more uncertain about what will happen next because there is no music that could lead them. And this makes this movie special since most if not all movies nowadays need to use music in order to maintain tension and to keep the viewers entertained. But because this movie's main goal is not to entertain, or keep tension, it lets the viewer focus more on the details. This scene shows a very abstract and complex situation which means the viewer has to focus and adapt to this new situation first in order to understand it.

"Also sprach Zarathustra" by Richard Strauss starts to play after the fourth monolith occurred by which Dr. Bowman became a fetus. The sound of this orchestral piece does not seem confusing anymore — rather the opposite. This time when the monolith appeared, there was no sunrise. But this piece by Strauss sounds just as if there is a sun rising, like an Epiphany. And it also underlines what is happening in this sequence because it is far away from our imagination.

In sum, the music as well as the missing music in this scene gives emphasis to the action. This means it causes confusion, it foregrounds other sounds, it makes the viewer focus more on details and it creates an epiphany at the end of the scene which is also the end of the movie.

III.   Post-Viewing

1. **Working with the film (or a particular scene)**
   Write a review of the whole movie (cf. S 16, p. 326 GLO)

"Oh, there's a giant baby flying through space" and "the film has its lengths" — these were the descriptions I got about this movie before I watched it myself. This sounds already like a great movie! — I thought ironically. Before I watched the movie, I didn't think it could actually be great. But turns out it was.

"2001: A Space Odyssey" by Stanley Kubrick was made in 1968. The epic science fiction film deals with human evolution, artificial intelligence, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life. What seemed as if my screen was broken turned out to be intended: it starts with about three minutes of a black screen with music playing. At the latest when I realized no one will speak in this movie before 24 minutes and 40 seconds it was clear for me that I have to change my perspective with which I watch the movie. I cannot expect it to be like any other movie I have ever watched. And that was the moment I started to enjoy the movie. In my opinion, this is the first major reason why this movie is different, in a positive way. It makes the viewers realize that there are different perspectives to watch a movie from. It makes the viewer think about all the other movies they have watched in the past: what were the differences between all these movies and this one in particular? And then the viewer realizes: this movie is totally different from what I've seen so far, but it still manages to be entertaining in a very unique way. For instance, throughout the movie, in scenes in which there was absolute silence, I felt tenser than I have felt when watching other movies with music that is supposed to build up the tension. This movie is able to create tension without music and this is fascinating.

The storyline is actually very interesting, too. It deals with an artificial intelligence named Hal that starts to misbehave for no apparent reason from the perspective of the crew members in the beginning. The reason is revealed later in the movie. Nowadays, this plot becomes more and more relevant and realistic. So even though this movie was made in the 1960s, it is still relevant for today's generation and should therefore not be forgotten about. Especially the end of the movie was a bit confusing for me when I watched it the first time. I could not quite understand what was happening. And therefore, even though this movie is for 12 years and up, I do not think 12-year-olds would understand the plot entirely. Reading interpretations about the ending helped me to realize some major aspects I have missed out on before.

So in conclusion, "2001: A Space Odyssey" is very well-made and I think it should definitely still be watched by today's generation even though it is already over 50 years old now. But in order to do so, you have to change your perspective on how you see the movie to be able to understand the underlying message of the movie. And yes, spoiler, there is indeed a "giant baby flying through space".

2. The film as such

Find out how the movie was received at the time and what impact it had on the film industry in keywords.

The Guardian:

"2001: A Space Odyssey review: 'an interstellar shaggy dog story' — archive 1968"

- Beautiful to look at with gorgeous images
- Many special effects and some that are constantly repeated throughout the movie
- The first time ever that a science fiction film looks plausible
- Ending seems as if Kubrick and his co-writer Arthur C. Clarke have not thought it through
- The visceral approach is unanalyzable and unarguable

Roger Ebert:

"2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968)

- There is hardly any character development in the plot
- Little suspense
- There is not a single moment when the viewer can see through the props

Most important contributions that the movie made to cinematic design

- Insistence on visual and auditory storytelling at the expense of dialogue
- The characters are bland as people
- The grandeur of its images and the thrilling power of its philosophical questions leaves the viewer breathless with emotional excitement

3. General

Please comment on what you learned while creating the viewing log and whether or not you liked the tasks.

I definitely enjoyed this task. I have never worked so much with a movie but it was very interesting to do so. As I mentioned in the pre-viewing tasks, I never really watched science fiction movies, so at first, I was not sure how I will like the movie and how I will be able to do all the tasks if I did not like the movie. But fortunately, I found a way to enjoy the movie, and this film project taught me how to detach myself from the idea that every movie has to have fast cuts and music that builds up the tension — that it also works without it. Of course, I will not watch movies like "2001: A Space Odyssey" if my intention is to be entertained. But from the perspective that is needed to solve the tasks in this viewing log, the movie was really good. In the end, I am happy that I chose this movie and not a movie from this century because of this new insight I was able to get thanks to this movie. I also liked the fact that I was able to choose some tasks that fit the scene best or that I was most interested in doing. Sometimes, it has not even felt so much like a school project that I need to do because someone told me to do due to the fact that it was something new and actually interesting for me. I definitely learned a lot while creating this viewing log. Not only did I learn some new English words but I also learned more about cinematic devices which is a topic I am also personally interested in but have not had the time to learn much about it yet.

Sources

HAL Picture

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/HAL_9000

Reviews

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