

Chaos Theory and Life Lessons learned in Chrichton's *Jurassic Park*

Falie Emler

Center for Advanced Research and Technology

Mrs. J. Silva

English 11 H

January 26, 2024

Abstract

In the Web Application Development Lab at the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) students were tasked with creating a website for a themed dining experience in Jurassic Park. The students had to research our competitors and themes that other themed experiences had that would've liked to add to our restaurant. The students also had to collaborate together on the information that they were thinking of adding into the website for our viewers to read.

Everybody collected data on what people do and get when they go to a themed dining experience. They realized that people liked having playgrounds there and a private section for the adults to go without any children there. So they all decided to add that to their information and packages. For the pricing of the website they all settled on not being super expensive because they wanted everyone that was at Jurassic Park to be able to go there even if it is a little bit more fancy. When everyone got to configuring the website they had to share the repository so they could all code together. Both of them each did half of the html and the css so that it was fair to both of them. It took everyone a little longer than they would have liked it to but they both liked what the end product was.

Chaos Theory and Life Lessons learned in Chrichton's *Jurassic Park*

Introduction

In Micheal Chrichton's, *Jurassic Park* (1990), he says "Real life isn't a series of interconnected events occurring one after another like beads strung on a necklace. Life is actually a series of encounters in which one event may change those that follow in a wholly unpredictable, even devastating way." This is a quote that Ian Malcom says in *Jurassic park* about chaos theory. Understanding chaos theory will help you to understand why things that you wouldn't have expected to be next are next. Along with learning about chaos theory you also can learn some life lessons from *Jurassic park*. One of these life lessons that you can learn from *Jurassic park* is to always know what to do in certain dangerous situations or try your best to fend off or stop whatever is happening. In *jurassic park* many events happen where either the characters know what to do to stop them or they try their best to defend themselves and everyone else from what's happening. This is a very good lesson and skill to have because some situations can get dangerous very fast even if you didn't think that they could.

Scientific and Literary Origins of Chaos Theory/Butterfly Effect

Chaos theory as mentioned in the introduction is a theory that tries to explain that any decision that you make can lead to things that happen later on. It contains a lot of mathematics and science to be able to even say that it is a theory. But chaos theory is not that hard to understand because it is basically a theory of random events that you didn't know could happen. Like how many different events in *Jurassic Park* happen even though you never thought that it

could've because of something that happened just before or even years before that event. That is mainly what chaos theory is. After explaining what chaos theory is to you we have cited two different quotes from two different books that have chaos theory connected to them.

A Sound of Thunder

“A little error here would multiply in sixty million years, all out of proportion.”

The Pedestrian

“Crime was ebbing; there was no need now for the police, save for this one lone car wandering the empty streets.”

Chaos Theory at Play in *Jurassic Park*

Turning back around to the book and the guy who created chaos theory Ian Malcom talked to many of the characters about chaos theory and what it is. So, Ian Malcom talks to Ellie Sattler about chaos theory while they were on tour in the cars. He showed her what he meant by telling her to keep her hand stable while he poured a drop of water on it and had it roll down. When he did it the second time it went down her hand in a different spot which had her a little shocked because she thought that it was going to go down the same spot since her hand was in the same position. Another example of Malcolm talking about chaos theory was on the helicopter when they were all first arriving at the park. He asked if they knew what chaos theory was and was surprised when all of them said that they didn't know. So he explained it to them all and they looked confused and surprised about the idea of chaos theory. Since both of these examples show that the characters didn't really understand chaos theory or thought that it wasn't an actual thing. So I feel like Ian Malcom is the only person that understands chaos theory in Jurassic park

because he was the one who created it. I think all of the other main people in Jurassic Park, like Ellie Sattler, Alan Grant, Dennis Nedry, and many more don't understand chaos theory, or haven't even heard of it. I feel like this because no one really talked about chaos theory besides Ian Malcom and when he talked about it for the first time no one knew what he was talking about. And when he tried to explain it to Ellie Sattler she looked wowed because she had never heard of this before.

Consequences of Chaos Theory

Two different characters that are good examples of what chaos theory can cause are Dennis Nedry and Henry Wu. Here is now an explanation of what the two characters caused because of chaos theory. Dennis Nedry was one of the characters that contributed to chaos theory because he decided to steal the embryos. On the night he tried to do this he had to turn off some of the systems which ended up screwing everyone over that was still in the main facility. And since these programs were all messed up they had to opt for turning all of the power off to hopefully reset everything. And even though they were able to reset all of the programs that Nedry messed up the electric fences ended up not turning on. So the dinosaurs got out of their enclosures. And then, The second character that contributed to the chaos was Henry Wu. He contributed to the chaos because when he was constructing the dinosaur DNA he used a certain frog DNA. Which they had to use so that they could make all of the dinosaurs female and not any males. But since they did this without knowing that that certain frog can change sex depending on if there are ant males around them . Some of the female dinosaurs ended up changing sex and reproducing in the wild. They didn't even realize this until they found a baby dinosaur that was a male in one of the dinosaur's enclosures.

Lessons Learned from Chaos

Even with everything that happened in Jurassic Park there were some positive events that happened during the book. One positive event that happened that you can learn from Jurassic Park is when they are all in the cars. I feel like in this scene they are either fighting or talking to each other and this goes back and forth. But even though they are fighting over things they still make up and talk about other things and get along together. So to connect this to real life, even if you get into a fight with family, significant other, or just a friend it's important to talk it out and then talk about something else. The second positive event that happened in Jurassic Park could be when they all first saw the dinosaurs together and were all amazed that they were actually seeing something that doesn't live in this day and age. I feel like this is a positive lesson that shows that you need to have new experiences with people. And even just new experiences by yourself because it will enrich your life and give you new experiences that you could talk to people about. And experiencing new things with people can create new memories that both of you won't ever forget even if you aren't friends anymore.

Conclusion

In my introduction I talked about a quote that a character called Ian Malcom in the book said. And this quote mainly explains that nothing in life is guaranteed especially if something random happens. Because life isn't a series of intertwined events, it's more of events that just happen one after the other. So you can't really expect any specific thing to happen because one little thing can change the course of whatever was going to happen. This connects to the importance of people understanding chaos theory because it's basically about the random little things and decisions that you make that will affect anything and everything in your life to the extremes. Even if you think that it couldn't possibly affect everything like that. But also if you don't understand chaos theory then you won't really understand Jurassic Park because chaos theory is

what Jurassic park is mainly about. So some of the things that happen you would think like why did that happen, but it happened because of chaos theory messing with everything that's going on. You can also apply chaos theory to learning life lessons from it because after something happened you can think maybe i shouldn't do that cause it could cause something bad to happen. And learning life lessons is a good thing because it's what makes you human. Because messing up and fixing things is something that everybody does because we're human. Chaos theory is kinda like that with the consequences and all.

References

Crichton, M. (1990). *Jurassic Park*. Ballantine Publishing Group.

Goodreads. Inc. (2024). *Jurassic Park Quotes*. Goodreads. [Jurassic Park Quotes by Michael Crichton\(page 2 of 18\)](#)