

Fictitious Truths Proposal

For my fictitious truth of choice, I wanted to explore the possibility of someone discovering that the Ghibli movie worlds were actually real places. For instance, how would someone react if they found that the field of flowers from Howl's Moving Castle was a real place or if the teahouse from Spirited Away actually existed. For this specific article, I would like to focus on one specific movie world that could be believable to exist and that is the world of My Neighbor Totoro.

The world of My Neighbor Totoro takes place in the country sides of Japan where everyone owns their own acre of land and the people who live there are often farmers. This type of place is already existing, the only thing different is the Totoro aspect. In the film, there is a character by the name of Totoro who is considered the spirit of the forest. The name is elusive though the physical depiction is similar enough to real animals that I think it could be passed off to actually exist. The home of the Totoro is not as magical as some of the other mythical creatures of the Ghibli universe, in fact it is relatively normal for any animal. Totoro lives in a cove of greenery that is accessible through the base of a tree. This is similar to how squirrels or chipmunks live.

As to who will discover this world, I decided to put some validity into it and decided on National Geographic. National Geographic is known for its wild-life observation videos where they seek to inform the general public of these animals we don't ever get to see outside of the zoo. National Geographic wants to inform people to get people to care about the world that is home to us and hundreds of animals. This is why I think they would be a perfect candidate for discovering the world of Totoro.

The movie has a lot of thematic elements involving nature and exploring your environment. Hayao Miyazaki had designed the film to include nature in almost every aspect. One specific aspect being the Shinto belief that gods can be found in nature, which implies that by treating these gods with respect, you are exchanging for protection from the gods. I believe this loosely relates to National Geographic's mission to protect the environment. National Geographic documents animals in their natural habitat to show that the environment affects more than what we can see. By taking care of our environment, we are helping protect animal homes and making sure they have a safe habitat to thrive in.

How these two worlds will intertwine is that National Geographic will report on their discoveries of this world in order to further their mission of protecting the environment. As all aspects of this world will exist, this means that Totoro as the spirit of the forest will exist. National Geographic can use this mythical character to get the public to care about their actions towards the environment because it makes their actions reflect back on them as the spirit of the forest will not offer protection if the people do not respect it.

The ultimate goal of this fictitious truth is to promote environmental consciousness in a fantastical way where people's actions lead to more than just physical consequences. I believe a lot of people can benefit from the themes that were presented in this film and I think by making this article, it will present the info in a way that can be seen realistically and taken out of the fictional sense. The film is also just one of my favorite Ghibli movies and I could never pass up the opportunity to get more people to watch it if I can.