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Elements of a Run before Breakfast as a Family

The chosen artifact that I have selected to analyze is a scene from the 2013 premiered movie *The Croods*, which can be viewed by the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S8twVZf2XYs>. This clip sets a first impression for the movie *The Croods*. In this first scene, producers illustrate a family of cavemen battling with other various species of animals over a large bird egg for food. The Croods family work together as a team in obtaining the egg. It is shown that there are three generations of blood relations- a grandmother, father, mother, and three children consisting of a daughter, son, and baby who is also another daughter. Showcasing this first movie scene in the way it is, appeals to its intended audience of multiple generational families. A variety of textual elements are also presented to further understand The Croods unique family life.

First off, patterns of frequency seen throughout the rivalry are the bird egg and the constant switching of avengement between the members of the family. The bird egg that is being fought over for a primary source of food, is the main object being showcased throughout the movie clip. This prize sets a goal in mind and a meaning to the whole scenario. Every family member receives a chance on retrieving the egg, but then they are defeated by the opposing animals who also want that source of food. Once a family member is defeated though, another relative comes along to avenge their loved one. This constant action of willingness develops a perception of working together as a team among the family itself. These presented patterns of

frequency of the needed nourished bird egg and the balancing reliance of the family, play a valuable role in developing the first impression of this unusual caveman family.

There are also a few constant patterns established, which are the aggressiveness of the daughter and the juvenility of the son, the opposing teams of cavemen versus animals, and the predator action of the furious beast and the protection of the woolly mammoth type animal towards the end of the movie scene. When flipping for who will first retrieve the egg, the daughter eagerly wanted to be it, but by chance, the son is instead chosen to do the deed. Then the daughter presents a gesture of disappointed while the son is afraid to obtain the egg. The opposing desires between the daughter and the son foreshadows an initial complication of the daughter's current state of contentment standing since the daughter's disappointment is shown during this first scene of the movie. Another sense of contrast is between the conflicting groups of cavemen and animals. As they both fight over the wanted bird egg, there is an equal representation of the two sides throughout the movie clip. This equality creates the sense of competition among the whole situation, which presents the occurring event more intriguing for its intended audience. The pathos of this contrast heightens the desire of wanting to know the ending result. Lastly, there is a difference illustrated between the sense of insecurity and security with the raging beast and frightened woolly mammoth type animal. There is an additional sense of captivation with this developed setup, intriguing the intended audience even further into the scene. These patterns of contrast advance the pathos and an understanding of the movie itself.

Identified anomalies that stand out throughout the movie clip are the tailed grandmother and strangely crazed baby among the whole unusual cavemen environment of a variety of fictional animals and actions of all the characters. In the beginning, the father flips the grandmother like a coin calling out heads or tails, which determines if the daughter or son goes

to retrieve the egg. The grandmother has some sort of proportionally sized lizard's tail, which is even abnormal for the time when cavemen were assumed to exist. Another anomaly presented during the movie scene is the outrageousness portrayed baby. During the high intense action, the father shouts out to the mother to "release the baby" rather than the commonly known term the beast in place of the baby. These strange anomalies add a comedic value to the pathos of the movie scene.

This movie clip develops two moments of intensity, which are when the son awakens the beast and when he also drops the obtained egg towards the end. The central focus is changed when the son accidentally awakes the beast that then chases after the family for revenge. It becomes a situation where hunting for their breakfast is not always just fun and games in the wild; there is still a chance of death. When it seems that the family was just going to settle down, the son also drops the egg on the ground once they all get back home, which identically continues the fast paced action of the movie clip. There is a very quick shift from escaping death, to having to eat their breakfast before it goes to waste. Also, both of these moments are provoked by the son himself presenting a naïve existence of the character. These moments of intensity create these instant changes in meaning of the situations that develop a further understanding on how this particular family lives their weekly lives.

In conclusion, there are many elements that define the unusual living of this caveman family. Being shown more like a competition, this movie clip greatly intrigues its intended audience of families. Overall, this described movie scene from *The Croods* illustrates how working together as a family can defeat even the impossible.