**Part 1 – Tuesday 6/5:**

* How does Disney’s Cruella (2021) reinterpret the story of Cruella that is so widely known in popular culture? Consider, settings, timelines, plot and ideologies.

The 2021 movie serves as the origin / backstory for the main villain of the original novel, Cruella de Vil. It is set before the events of the novel and is from the perspective of Cruella herself. The time period of the setting is altered, being in the 1970’s as opposed to the 1950’s.

* Cruella explores Cruella’s origin story, up to the point where Anita and Roger receive their famous pooches Perdita and Pongo, which is before the events of the novel and the other two Disney films. How does the 2021 challenge the common representation of the main character?

Some aspects of Cruella’s representation differ dramatically from preexisting ones, and as the protagonist of the film her character is depicted in a more multidimensional fashion. This is done through the deeper insight given into her relationships with known characters.

* Do you think the 2021 film is a successful reinterpretation? Give reasons with your answer.

The 2021 film successfully reinterprets the original story, building upon the children’s story to create a comedic crime-focused narrative. It remains faithful enough to the original characterization to not seem out of place, while still forming an engaging original plot.

* How does the film invite the audience to question or reflect on the dominant cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs that underpin the original text?
* How does the film invite the audience to question or reflect on the dominant cultural assumptions, attitudes, values and beliefs that underpin a new cultural context?

**Part 2 – Thursday 8/5:**

*Little Mermaid* – Hans Christian Anderson

Activity 1:

1. How did Disney reinterpret the original tale in the 1996 film version? Consider:
   * Concepts and themes
   * Identities
   * Time and place
   * Context

Disney’s reinterpretation of the original tale helped to adapt its themes, identities, and contexts to fit within the narrative of an animated children’s film. The 1996 film’s looser approach to the depiction of the Mermaid gives the character a newfound individuality, facilitating the creation of a compelling, protagonist-led plot.

Activity 2:

1. How has Hammell reimagined the original tale? What has been changed? Consider:
   * Concepts and themes
   * Identities
   * Time and place
   * Context

Hammell reimagines the source material into a more mature, dramatic story by altering the events of the original tale.

1. How does the reimagining invite the audience to question or reflect on the dominant cultural assumptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs that underpin the original text?

a

1. How does the reimagining invite the audience to question or reflect on the dominant cultural assumptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs that underpin the new cultural context?

Activity 3:

1. In *The Little Mermaid* 2023, much of the revisions and reinterpretations that Disney made are due to the new cultural attitudes and beliefs that exist now. For example, in the song “Kiss the Girl” any ambiguity over consent has been removed.   
   Why is it important that when we reinterpret texts, we consider the cultural assumptions, attitudes, values, and beliefs that underpin our world, and evolve themes and contexts?

A

The 1996 film took extensive liberties in its adaptation of the source material, naming the originally unnamed Mermaid “Ariel” and dressing her with the now-signature purple seashells.