Morality in Death Note

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Left Side – Objective Summary Right side – Subjective Reflection

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| 1. Zhang, L. (2016, November 15). On Death Note, Morals, and Existential Crises. Retrieved from <https://sites.duke.edu/anime/2016/11/15/on-death-note-morals-and-existential-crises/>. 2. “Death Note’s protagonist Light Yagami” (Zhang, L. 2016) is an athletic, smart, and kind person. He views the world as a “rotten place full of despicable people” (Zhang, L. 2016). One day, ne notices a notebook falling from the sky. After school he looks for it finds what’s called the Death Note. The way it works is that the person whose name is written in the book will die in forty seconds if time of death is not specified and if the details is not specified, then the victim will simply die of a heart attack. For this to work, the real name and face must be in the writer’s mind. Light uses this notebook to kill “a criminal (a death row criminal at that)” (Zhang, L. 2016) to test the legitimacy of the Death Note and to his surprise it kills the man. “L, an inhumanly intelligent detective and prodigy, discovers the peculiar death trend of criminals dying from heart attacks and tackles the case.” (Zhang, L. 2016). The rest of the show is about the two engaging a battle of wits, one ideology versus another. 3. a) “The dichotomy of good and evil is only one of many that we use to simplify life.” (Zhang, L. 2016)   b) “Who the audience roots for is quite telling” (Zhang, L. 2016)  c) “While many viewers look at the show and see Light as the “bad guy” and L as the “good guy”, that’s not the case, or at least, it isn’t so simplistic.” (Zhang, L. 2016)  d) “The two central characters are warped by a sense of justice that is a product of their egos.” (Zhang, L. 2016)  e) “As the characters develop, the viewers chose their favorite and begin to align their view with theirs” (Zhang, L. 2016)  f) “L, whose intelligence makes him completely socially incompatible with out humans” (Zhang, L. 2016)   1. If Death Note were to air today, meaning that it didn’t exist back then and made its debut in todays modern society; how would todays world react to its content in comparison to how it did back in the day? | I think that this article was well written one. It described the events that took place in the show Death Note but, didn’t spoil any of its content. They summarized what I needed to know about the show before they talked about the real purpose of the article – being the morals in Death Note. I have already seen the show, which is how I know their summary was good. As for the points covered in the article, they were all solid and were well in depth leaving me with little to no confusion as per what they meant when they stated something. My ideology from the Death Note standpoint remains the same however, has expanded thanks to the depth that the article went to. For example, I may have thought that people do not like being told the truth, but the article reassured that though and gave examples for why it is that way – furthering my beliefs in that ideology.   1. I can easily agree with this statement. I often realize how an argument that at first may seem one sided, has two sides and that people just ignore the other side that they deem “evil” or “bad” since that is what they are taught. 2. This was the case for while I was watching Death Note. At first, I thought Light was really cool and had interesting plans with the Death Note, but towards the end I ended up loving L more as his efforts arguable surpassed those of Lights and Light at that time had lost his mind over the power of the Death Note. 3. I agree. It all depends on how you look at it. If your philosophical beliefs line up with Light’s, then he will probably look like the “good guy” to you, if the opposite is true, then L will seem like the “god guy” to you. The roles each character takes (Antagonist and Protagonist) depends on the type of person watching the show. 4. Yes, they are. Light is the top student in school and L has never failed to solve a case before. Both characters refuse to put their pride and egos aside for even one second as they both hate to lose. 5. Completely agree. When I was watching Death Note, after seeing enough of the show, I figured out where I stand in terms of the character, I like more. Light was my favorite until he went crazy talking about ruling the world with an iron fist, so then L is now my favorite as his core character never changed. 6. I disagree with this argument. In my opinion, L “cannot” fit into society as his viewpoints are too strong for anyone to handle. He is open about how he feels and what his suspicions are while others judge him due to their morals no aligning up with his, in the end I think that no one truly understand him and that’s why people think he “cannot” interact with society.   This question is import to me as I would like to see the results if Death Note really was released in todays society. A society where the slightest bold statement can set thousands of people off just because it slightly offends them. Death note is a really bold show, one that showcases a handful of strong philosophical standpoints and ideologies, some that people may just not be able to handle if they were first featured in a popular show like Death Note today. This of course is what I think would happen, there’s no way of knowing for sure, which is why this question is important to me. |

***References:***

Zhang, L. (2016, November 15). On Death Note, Morals, and Existential Crises. Retrieved from

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