# Back to the future - a critical analysis

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# 1.0: Introduction

Back to the Future is a 1985 American science fiction adventure comedy film directed by Robert Zemeckis and written by Zemeckis and Bob Gale. It stars Michael J. Fox as teenager Marty McFly, who accidentally travels back in time to 1955, where he meets his future parents and becomes his mother's romantic interest. Christopher Lloyd portrays the eccentric scientist Dr. Emmett "Doc" Brown, inventor of the time-traveling DeLorean, who helps Marty repair history and return to 1985.  
  
The film was a box office success, becoming the highest-grossing film of 1985 and the highest-grossing film of the Back to the Future franchise. It received critical acclaim, with critics praising its humor, visual effects, and performances. It won the Academy Award for Best Sound Effects Editing and was nominated for Best Original Screenplay. It spawned two sequels, Back to the Future Part II (1989) and Back to the Future Part III (1990), and an animated series, an amusement park ride, several video games, and a musical.  
  
This book is a critical analysis of the 1985 movie Back to the Future. It examines the film's themes, characters, plot, and production, as well as its impact on popular culture. It also explores the film's legacy and its influence on subsequent films and television shows. The book will provide an in-depth look at the film and its place in the history of science fiction and popular culture.

# 2.0: Analysis of the Plot

## 2.1: The Setting

The 1985 movie Back to the Future is set in the fictional town of Hill Valley, California. The movie follows the adventures of Marty McFly, a high school student who is accidentally sent back in time to 1955. The movie is set in a variety of locations, including the Hill Valley High School, the Hill Valley Courthouse, and the Hill Valley Mall. The movie also features a variety of iconic vehicles, such as the DeLorean time machine, the Hill Valley Police car, and the Hill Valley Taxi. The movie also features a variety of iconic characters, such as Doc Brown, Biff Tannen, and George McFly. The movie is set in a time period that is both familiar and unfamiliar to the audience, as it is set in the past but also features futuristic technology. The setting of the movie is integral to the plot, as it provides the backdrop for the time-traveling adventures of Marty McFly.

## 2.2: The Characters

The 1985 movie Back to the Future features a cast of characters that are integral to the plot. The protagonist, Marty McFly, is a high school student who is accidentally sent back in time to 1955. He is portrayed by Michael J. Fox, who brings a sense of humor and charm to the role. Marty's best friend, Doc Brown, is a mad scientist who invents the time machine that sends Marty back in time. Christopher Lloyd plays the role of Doc Brown, and his eccentric performance is a highlight of the movie.  
  
The other characters in the movie are mostly from 1955. Marty's parents, George and Lorraine, are played by Crispin Glover and Lea Thompson, respectively. They are portrayed as awkward teenagers in 1955, and their relationship with Marty is a major plot point. Biff Tannen, played by Thomas F. Wilson, is the bully of the movie, and his antagonistic relationship with Marty is a major source of conflict. Jennifer Parker, played by Claudia Wells, is Marty's girlfriend in 1985, and she is sent back in time with him.  
  
The characters in Back to the Future are integral to the plot, and their performances are a major part of the movie's success. The actors bring a sense of humor and charm to their roles, and their interactions with each other are a major source of comedy. The characters are also important to the plot, as their relationships with each other drive the story forward.

## 2.3: The Storyline

The 1985 movie Back to the Future tells the story of Marty McFly, a teenager living in the small town of Hill Valley, California. Marty is accidentally sent back in time to 1955, where he meets his teenage parents and must ensure that they fall in love in order to ensure his own existence. Along the way, he must also prevent his nemesis, Biff Tannen, from altering the future.  
  
The movie follows Marty as he navigates the past, trying to find a way back to the future. He meets his parents as teenagers, and discovers that his father, George, is a timid and meek individual who is constantly bullied by Biff. Marty must find a way to help his father stand up to Biff and win the heart of his mother, Lorraine.  
  
Marty eventually succeeds in his mission, and is able to return to the future. However, he discovers that his actions have caused a ripple effect, and the future he returns to is not the same as the one he left. He must now find a way to restore the timeline and ensure that his future remains intact.  
  
The movie is a classic example of time travel fiction, and its story is filled with humor, adventure, and heart. The movie is a testament to the power of friendship and family, and its message of hope and perseverance resonates with viewers of all ages.

# 3.0: Analysis of the Themes

## 3.1: Time Travel

Time travel is a major theme in Back to the Future. The movie follows Marty McFly, a teenager from 1985, as he travels back in time to 1955. Throughout the movie, Marty must navigate the complexities of time travel, as he attempts to return to his own time. The movie explores the consequences of time travel, as Marty must make sure that his actions in the past do not have a negative effect on his future. The movie also examines the idea of fate, as Marty must accept that his actions in the past are predetermined and cannot be changed. The movie also explores the idea of nostalgia, as Marty is able to experience the past and gain a new appreciation for his present. Finally, the movie examines the idea of family, as Marty must come to terms with his parents’ relationship and his own place in the family.

## 3.2: Family Dynamics

The 1985 movie Back to the Future is a classic time-traveling adventure that follows the story of Marty McFly, a teenager from the 1980s who is sent back in time to 1955. The movie explores a variety of themes, including family dynamics. The movie focuses on the relationship between Marty and his parents, George and Lorraine McFly, and how their relationship is affected by Marty's time-traveling adventures.  
  
The movie begins with Marty's parents as a young couple in 1955, and it is clear that their relationship is strained. George is a timid and meek man who is constantly bullied by his boss, while Lorraine is a strong-willed woman who is unafraid to stand up for herself. The two are clearly in love, but their relationship is strained due to George's lack of confidence and Lorraine's frustration with his passivity.  
  
When Marty travels back in time, he is able to observe his parents' relationship in its early stages and is able to intervene in order to help them. Through his actions, Marty is able to help George gain the confidence he needs to stand up for himself and to pursue his dreams. This newfound confidence helps George to become a successful author and to win Lorraine's heart.  
  
The movie also explores the relationship between Marty and his parents. Marty's relationship with his father is strained due to George's lack of confidence and his inability to stand up for himself. However, Marty's relationship with his mother is much stronger, as she is able to provide him with the support and guidance he needs.  
  
Overall, the movie Back to the Future explores the theme of family dynamics in a unique and entertaining way. Through Marty's time-traveling adventures, he is able to help his parents find the courage and confidence they need to pursue their dreams and to build a strong and loving relationship. The movie also explores the relationship between Marty and his parents, and how his actions can help to strengthen their bond.

## 3.3: The Power of Friendship

The 1985 movie Back to the Future is a classic example of the power of friendship. The main characters, Marty McFly and Doc Brown, are an unlikely pair of friends who come together to help each other out of difficult situations. The movie shows how their friendship is strong enough to overcome any obstacle, no matter how impossible it may seem.  
  
The movie also highlights the importance of friendship in times of crisis. When Marty is sent back in time, he is alone and confused. It is only through the help of Doc Brown that he is able to find his way back to the future. Doc Brown is also instrumental in helping Marty save his family from a disastrous future.  
  
The movie also shows how friendship can be a source of strength and comfort. When Marty is struggling to come to terms with his new life in the past, Doc Brown is there to provide support and guidance. The two friends are able to rely on each other in times of need, and this is a powerful message that resonates with viewers.  
  
Finally, the movie also shows how friendship can be a source of joy and happiness. Marty and Doc Brown are able to share in each other's successes and failures, and this helps to create a strong bond between them. The movie shows that friendship is an essential part of life, and it is something that should be cherished and nurtured.

# 4.0: Analysis of the Visuals

## 4.1: Cinematography

The cinematography of Back to the Future is one of its most iconic elements. Director Robert Zemeckis and cinematographer Dean Cundey used a variety of techniques to create a unique visual style for the film. The most notable of these techniques is the use of wide-angle lenses to create a sense of depth and scale. This technique was used to great effect in the opening sequence, where the camera pans across the town of Hill Valley, giving the audience a sense of the town's size and scope.  
  
The use of slow motion was also used to great effect in the film. This technique was used to emphasize the comedic moments, as well as to create a sense of tension and suspense. The slow motion was also used to great effect in the climax of the film, when Marty McFly is chased by the Libyans.  
  
The use of color was also an important element of the cinematography. The film was shot in a muted color palette, with a focus on blues and greens. This gave the film a dream-like quality, and helped to create a sense of nostalgia.  
  
The use of lighting was also important in creating the visual style of the film. The lighting was used to create a sense of mystery and suspense, as well as to emphasize the comedic moments. The use of shadows was also used to great effect, creating a sense of tension and suspense.  
  
Overall, the cinematography of Back to the Future was an important element in creating the film's unique visual style. The use of wide-angle lenses, slow motion, color, and lighting all contributed to the film's success.

## 4.2: Costumes

The costumes in Back to the Future are a key element in the film's visual storytelling. The costumes of the characters in the film are used to convey the differences between the two time periods, as well as to emphasize the characters' personalities. The costumes of the characters in the 1985 timeline are modern and stylish, while the costumes of the characters in the 1955 timeline are more conservative and traditional. This contrast helps to emphasize the differences between the two time periods.  
  
The costumes of the main characters are also used to emphasize their personalities. Marty McFly's costume is a combination of modern and traditional elements, which reflects his status as a time traveler between the two time periods. His costume also reflects his rebellious nature, as he wears a red leather jacket and a white t-shirt with a skull on it. Doc Brown's costume is more traditional, reflecting his status as an eccentric scientist. His costume also reflects his intelligence, as he wears a lab coat and glasses.  
  
The costumes of the other characters in the film are also used to emphasize their personalities. Biff Tannen's costume is a reflection of his status as a bully, as he wears a leather jacket and a baseball cap. Jennifer Parker's costume is more conservative, reflecting her status as a typical teenage girl. The costumes of the other characters in the film are also used to emphasize their roles in the story. For example, the costumes of the police officers in the 1955 timeline are more traditional, reflecting their status as authority figures.  
  
Overall, the costumes in Back to the Future are an important element in the film's visual storytelling. The costumes of the characters are used to emphasize the differences between the two time periods, as well as to emphasize the characters' personalities. The costumes of the other characters in the film are also used to emphasize their roles in the story.

## 4.3: Special Effects

The 1985 movie Back to the Future was a groundbreaking film in terms of its special effects. The film was one of the first to use computer-generated imagery (CGI) to create the time-traveling DeLorean. The DeLorean was a key element of the movie, and its design was a major factor in the success of the film. The DeLorean was designed to look like a car from the future, and the filmmakers used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the iconic vehicle.  
  
The filmmakers also used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the time-traveling effects. The time-traveling effects were used to show the characters traveling through time, and the filmmakers used a combination of camera angles, lighting, and special effects to create the desired effect. The filmmakers also used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the futuristic environments in the movie. The filmmakers used a combination of matte paintings, miniatures, and CGI to create the futuristic environments.  
  
The filmmakers also used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the iconic hoverboard sequence. The filmmakers used a combination of camera angles, lighting, and special effects to create the desired effect. The filmmakers also used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the iconic lightning strike sequence. The filmmakers used a combination of camera angles, lighting, and special effects to create the desired effect.  
  
Overall, the filmmakers used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the special effects in the movie. The filmmakers used a combination of camera angles, lighting, and special effects to create the desired effect. The filmmakers also used a combination of matte paintings, miniatures, and CGI to create the futuristic environments. The filmmakers also used a combination of practical effects and CGI to create the iconic hoverboard and lightning strike sequences. The filmmakers used a combination of camera angles, lighting, and special effects to create the desired effect. The special effects in the movie were groundbreaking and helped to make the movie a success.

# 5.0: Conclusion

Back to the Future is a classic movie that has stood the test of time. It is a timeless classic that has been enjoyed by generations of viewers. The movie is a perfect blend of comedy, science fiction, and adventure. It is a story of a young man who travels back in time to save his family and the world. The movie is filled with memorable characters, exciting action sequences, and a great soundtrack. The movie is a great example of how a movie can be both entertaining and thought-provoking.  
  
The movie has been praised for its innovative use of special effects and its clever use of time travel. The movie also has a strong message about the importance of family and the power of friendship. The movie is also a great example of how a movie can be both entertaining and thought-provoking.  
  
Overall, Back to the Future is a classic movie that has stood the test of time. It is a timeless classic that has been enjoyed by generations of viewers. The movie is a perfect blend of comedy, science fiction, and adventure. It is a story of a young man who travels back in time to save his family and the world. The movie is filled with memorable characters, exciting action sequences, and a great soundtrack. The movie is a great example of how a movie can be both entertaining and thought-provoking. It is a movie that will continue to be enjoyed by generations to come.