**INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA STUDIES**

**PINOCCHIO BACKSTORY**

**Pinocchio** is a fictional character and the [protagonist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist) of the children's novel [*The Adventures of Pinocchio*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Adventures_of_Pinocchio) (1883) by Italian writer [Carlo Collodi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carlo_Collodi) of [Florence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florence), [Tuscany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuscany). Pinocchio was carved by a woodcarver named [Geppetto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geppetto) in a Tuscan village. He was created as a wooden [puppet](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puppet) but he dreams of becoming a real boy. He is notably characterized for his frequent tendency to lie, which causes his nose to grow. Pinocchio is a [cultural icon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_icon). He is one of the most re-imagined characters in children's literature.

**PERSONALITY TRAITS**

Once he is given life by the Blue Fairy, Pinocchio acts his age; he is very whimsical, childlike, and impressionable. Because of his youthful ignorance, he can be seen as rather mischievous, gullible, and over-trusting, which often lands himself into trouble, albeit unintentionally. This is seen several times throughout the film, and the trait, unfortunately, makes Pinocchio an easy pawn in the schemes or motivations of various antagonists. Even so, as the film progresses, Pinocchio notably learns from experiences and takes them into account; eventually becoming selfless, sensible, brave, and obtaining impressive leadership qualities. This is finally put into the forefront once the film nears its climax, as Pinocchio is faced with the task of rescuing his father from the jaws of the deadly whale, Monstrous, which he proceeds in carrying out by entirely using his own intelligence and craft. Pinocchio's daring decision to risk his life for his loved ones ultimately grants him his wish of becoming a real boy.

**PHYSICAL TRAITS**

Pinocchio is a slender marionette that is made to look like a cute little boy with a round, chubby face and long nose. He has big, bright blue eyes and a fringe of thick jet-black hair adorned with a yellow hat with a red feather under a blue band wrapped around it. Like most animated characters in the day, he has four-fingered hands with white gloves. He wears bright red cotton fabric short overalls with yellow buttons over a light-yellow shirt with a white collar. He also has a black vest, big blue bow tie, and brown wooden shoes.  
 **STORY  
PINOCCHIO**

Geppetto has just made a little wooden puppet called Pinocchio, whom he loves dearly ("Little Wooden Puppet"). Before he goes to bed, Geppetto wishes upon the evening star that Pinocchio would become a real, live boy. As Geppetto sleeps, the Blue Fairy arrives and grants the wish partially; Pinocchio has come to life, but he is still a puppet and must prove himself worthy before becoming a real boy.  
The next morning, Geppetto sends his son off to school. Pinocchio, alone and full of good intentions, heads off to school, but is sidetracked by the wily fox John Worthington Foul fellow and his simpleton accomplice Gideon the cat. Recognizing his uniqueness, the smooth-talking crooks decide to sell Pinocchio to marionette master Stromboli, whose travelling show is in town. Convincing Pinocchio that this is his chance to become an actor, Honest John and Gideon take the puppet to Stromboli ("Hi-Diddle-Dee-Dee"). Pinocchio becomes a success as part of Stromboli's show, dancing alongside normal puppets in a European-themed musical extravaganza ("I've Got No Strings").   
Pinocchio escape from Stromboli and head for home and returns home. To his dismay, his father isn't there.  
A dove arrives with a note from the Blue Fairy explaining that Geppetto has gone to sea to search for his lost son and has been swallowed by the whale Monstrous. Determined to save his father, Pinocchio, and his reluctant conscience journey to the bottom of the sea. They find Geppetto in the belly of the whale, and escape by setting a fire in the belly of the sea monster, who sneezes them right out.   
While Geppetto, Pinocchio, Figaro and Cleo celebrate steps outside to look at the wishing star.

