Like Curie explained, Disney has successfully conveyed a socially desirable message of the importance of harmony among different groups, promoting anti-racism and anti-prejudice. However, I would like to talk about how there are controversial elements in the film that undertones racism, that can subconsciously shape the audience’s perceptions of minority groups in a negative way.

Although the main theme of the film is discouraging stereotypes against a particular group, there are stereotypes in the movie that undermine this message itself. Most critically, all animals in this movie show very stereotypical behaviors related to their species.

For instance, bunnies are always associated with carrots. Other characters don’t call Judy by her name, but refer to her as “carrots”. In a scene where she eats, her food is a carrot. Also, bunnies are notorious for their prolificacy. The sign of her hometown Bunnyburrow shows the population increasing at an unbelievable speed.

Also, wolves are associated with howling in the film. When Judy and Nick discover where the missing animals are confined, wolves are guarding the entrance. However, once Judy howls shortly, the wolves start a frenzy of howling.

These stereotypes are different to the other major stereotypes in the movies such as bunnies being small and powerless, or foxes being sly. This is because such stereotypes are countered as the story progresses; Judy proves to be a capable police, and Nick too shows brave and trustworthy behavior by helping the police. These stereotypes are explicitly employed by Disney to convey their theme of anti-prejudice.

However, the stereotypes described earlier are not refuted. Showing stereotypical behaviors of particular animals reinforces the idea that particular groups behave in a characteristic way, and undermines the message of discouraging anti-prejudice.

Another controversial element in the film is the cunningness of the socially discriminated groups. Like Curie explained, the predators are the socially powerful groups such as the whites, and the prey are the socially prejudiced, underappreciated groups such as the blacks.

Although the prey seem to have adjusted in zootopia to build a harmonious relationship with the predators, later it turns out that Bellwether, the sheep assistant to the Mayor, had been responsible for the conspiracy to make predators savages and turn the society against them. She is extremely power-hungry and is willing to achieve what she wants. It thus implies that the socially suppressed groups are actually against the socially superb groups, and are willing to harm them in order to step up the social ladder. Of course, this is contrary to the main message of the film encouraging harmony.

Racist concepts against the socially suppressed groups can also be seen in the scene where Judy and Nick are attacked by a puma that has turned savage. This puma is the most dangerous and villainous character in the story; the fact that this character is black in color latently associates black skin color with negative, dangerous characteristics.