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***Short Sheeped***

May, 2021

**Overview**

The purpose of this report is to identify opportunities for content creators to diversify character representations. This report measures representations of five identities in the script *Short Sheeped* for LEGO Titan:

* [Gender](#7rdsrmby8a10)
* [Race/Ethnicity](#km0uzj1c47vm)
* [LGBTQ+](#l5fofjr5yyu7)
* [Disability](#phoxthamc9m4)
* [Age (50+)](#w6ssfbo3nmng)

**Methodology**

Spellcheck for Bias is based on inventions and software developed at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering. For this report, we analyze characters who spoke 1 line of text or more. In *Short Sheeped*, 14 characters met this criterion:

| **CHARACTER NAME** | **LINE COUNT** |
| --- | --- |
| LOGAN | 59 |
| MATEO | 55 |
| NIGHTMARE KING | 41 |
| IZZIE | 41 |
| COOPER | 36 |
| ZOEY | 17 |
| SNEAK | 11 |
| DALLAS | 7 |
| DARK ARCHER | 6 |
| JADYN | 6 |
| COACH JEFFRIES | 5 |
| SNIVEL | 2 |
| SUSAN | 2 |
| MRS CASTILLO | 2 |

Automated coding is combined with expert human coding to generate the quantitative and qualitative analysis below.

**Gender Analysis**

***For comparison, women constitute 51% of the U.S. population.***

* 29% of characters are specified as female.
* The co-leading characters are male (“Logan”) and (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 1 character opportunity to increase gender diversity.

Characters by Gender

| **FEMALE CHARACTER** | **MALE CHARACTER** | **GENDER UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | MATEO |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
|  | SNEAK |  |
|  | DALLAS |  |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |
|  | JADYN |  |
|  | COACH JEFFRIES |  |
|  | SNIVEL | SNIVEL |
| SUSAN | SUSAN |  |
| MRS CASTILLO | MRS CASTILLO |  |

The See Jane Test

| **In order to pass the See Jane test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a woman who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with gender stereotypes or tropes. |

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**Race/Ethnicity Analysis**

***For comparison, people of color constitute 38% of the U.S. population.***

* 36% characters are specified as characters of color.
* The co-leading characters are specified as characters of color (“Logan”) and (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 6 character opportunities to increase racial/ethnic diversity.

Characters by Race/Ethnicity

| **CHARACTER OF COLOR** | **WHITE CHARACTER** | **RACE/ETHNICITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| LOGAN | LOGAN |  |
| MATEO | MATEO |  |
|  | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
| IZZIE | IZZIE |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
| ZOEY | ZOEY |  |
|  | SNEAK | SNEAK |
|  | DALLAS | DALLAS |
|  | DARK ARCHER |  |
|  | JADYN | JADYN |
|  | COACH JEFFRIES | COACH JEFFRIES |
|  | SNIVEL | SNIVEL |
|  | SUSAN | SUSAN |
| MRS CASTILLO | MRS CASTILLO |  |

The Shonda Rhimes Test

| **In order to pass the Shonda Rhimes test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is a character of color who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with race/ethnicity stereotypes or tropes. |



**LGBTQ+ Analysis**

***For comparison, LGBTQ+ people comprise 4.5% of the U.S. population.***

* 0 characters are specified as LGBTQ+.
* The co-leading characters are specified as heterosexual (“Logan”) and (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 12 character opportunities to increase LGBTQ+ diversity.

Characters by LGBTQ+ Status

| **LGBTQ+ CHARACTER** | **HETEROSEXUAL CHARACTER** | **SEXUALITY UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN | LOGAN |
|  | MATEO | MATEO |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | SNEAK |
|  |  | DALLAS |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |
|  |  | JADYN |
|  |  | COACH JEFFRIES |
|  |  | SNIVEL |
|  |  | SUSAN |
|  |  | MRS CASTILLO |

The Vito-Russo Test

| **In order to pass the Vito-Russo test, a script/manuscript must:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **NO** | Contain a character that is identifiably lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. |
|  | That character must not be solely or predominantly defined by their sexual orientation or gender identity (i.e. they are comprised of the same sort of unique character traits commonly used to differentiate straight/non-transgender characters from one another). |
|  | The LGBTQ character must be tied into the plot in such a way that their removal would have a significant effect, meaning they are not there to simply provide colorful commentary, paint urban authenticity, or (perhaps most commonly) set up a punchline. |



**Disability Analysis**

***For comparison, people with disabilities constitute 19% of the U.S. population.***

* 7% characters are specified as having a physical, cognitive, or communication disability.
* The co-leading characters do not have a specified disability (“Logan”) and (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 13 character opportunities to increase disability diversity.

Characters by Disability Status

| **CHARACTER WITH DISABILITY** | **CHARACTER WITHOUT DISABILITY** | **DISABILITY STATUS UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | NIGHTMARE KING |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | SNEAK |
|  |  | DALLAS |
|  |  | DARK ARCHER |
|  |  | JADYN |
|  |  | COACH JEFFRIES |
|  |  | SNIVEL |
|  |  | SUSAN |
| MRS CASTILLO |  | MRS CASTILLO |

The Marlee Matlin Test

| **In order to pass the Marlee Matlin test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **NO** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a physical, cognitive, or communication disability who; |
|  | Is not depicted with disability stereotypes or tropes. |



**Age (50+) Analysis**

***For comparison, people ages 50+ constitute 34% of the U.S. population.***

* 14% characters are specified as ages 50+.
* The co-leading characters are under 50 (“Logan”) and (“Mateo”).
* The script contains 5 character opportunities to increase age diversity.

Characters by Age

| **CHARACTER 50+** | **CHARACTER UNDER 50** | **AGE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | LOGAN |  |
|  | MATEO |  |
| NIGHTMARE KING | NIGHTMARE KING |  |
|  | IZZIE |  |
|  | COOPER |  |
|  | ZOEY |  |
|  | SNEAK | SNEAK |
|  | DALLAS |  |
|  | DARK ARCHER | DARK ARCHER |
|  | JADYN |  |
|  | COACH JEFFRIES | COACH JEFFRIES |
|  | SNIVEL | SNIVEL |
|  | SUSAN | SUSAN |
| MRS CASTILLO | MRS CASTILLO |  |

The Betty White Test

| **In order to pass the Betty White test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **YES** | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) who is 50+ who; |
| **YES** | Is not depicted with age stereotypes or tropes. |



**Body Size Analysis**

* We do not analyze body size for this script.

Characters by Body Size

| **CHARACTER WITH LARGE BODY TYPE** | **CHARACTER WITH SMALL/MEDIUM BODY TYPE** | **BODY SIZE UNSPECIFIED** |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | MR OZ |
|  |  | MATEO |
|  |  | COOPER |
|  |  | IZZIE |
|  |  | STRICK |
|  |  | LOGAN |
|  |  | ZOEY |
|  |  | RADIO |
|  |  | MRS CASTILLO |
|  |  | COOPER'S MOM |
|  |  | OLD MAN HOLOGRAM |
|  |  | SPEAKER SYSTEM |
|  |  | COOPER’S BROTHER |

The Lizzo Test

| **In order to pass the Lizzo test, a script/manuscript must have:** | |
| --- | --- |
|  | At least one prominent character (leading, co-leading, supporting character) with a large body type who; |
|  | Is not depicted with size stereotypes or tropes. |

**Intersectional Analysis**

|  | **Female Character** | **Character of Color** | **LGBTQ+ Character** | **Character with a Disability** | **Character 50+** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Female Character** |  | **YES** | **NO** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **Character of Color** | **YES** |  | **NO** | **YES** | **YES** |
| **LGBTQ+ Character** | **NO** | **NO** |  | **NO** | **NO** |
| **Character with a Disability** | **YES** | **YES** | **NO** |  | **YES** |
| **Character 50+** | **YES** | **YES** | **NO** | **YES** |  |

**Positive Aspects**

* Normalizes LGBTQ+ households (Logan has two moms).
* Presents a prominent counter gender stereotype: Izzie enjoys playing sports and Zoey is brave.
* Presents counter Latinx and gender stereotypes: Mateo is bad at soccer but good at drawing and he exhibits interests and skills pertaining to the ‘imagination’.
* Presents counter Asian stereotype: Logan is highly talented in sports.
* Normalizes failure: Mateo is “terrible but at least he keeps trying” at soccer (6).

**Potential Pitfalls**

* **Potential Sexism:** 
  + Associates athletics and gamesmanship/gives a platform to *hyper-masculinity*, *domination*, and male characters that demonstrate traits related to *unhealthy masculinity* (Dallas and Logan):
    - “We’ve got some Wolves to cream” (4)
    - “Wolves hassling Cooper and Izzie” (13)
    - “Dallas...a born bully aggressively bumps Izzie” (13)
    - “It’s forfeit city for you losers” (13)
    - “Try not to cry when you lose” (17)
    - “Wolves captain slams into Coop” (23)
    - “Shoves Mateo down” (26)
    - Logan must physically fight another character (Sneak).
  + Unhealthy Masculinity: The Nightmare King, Dark Archer, and Dallas are written with the “VIOLENT MALE” trope.
* **Potential Racism:** 
  + Zoey, a half-Black character comes from a broken home and is a service worker. Despite her exceptionally young age she makes food deliveries -- potentially indicating she embodies the “POOR/LOW-INCOME” and “BROKEN HOUSEHOLD” stereotypes for Black characters.
* **Potential Ableism:** 
  + Suggestion: As mentioned in previous analysis, consider replacing ableist language (“stupid”; “crazy”) with neutral language (e.g., “silly”, “chaotic”, “wonderful”). Not only is utilizing alternative words more inclusive, it can serve to expand children’s vocabulary and encourage children to be more creative with their language choice when describing events.