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TMA 392 Benjamin Thevenin
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All Losses Restor'd and Sorrows End

The Project

- 10-15 Minute 2D Animated Short
- Based off of Shakespeare's Sonnet 30
- Themes include Morality and Nostalgia
- Audience for Children

Shakespeare Sonnet 30

Original Text:

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I **summon up remembrance of things past**,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste:
Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow,
For precious friends **hid in death's dateless night**,
And **weep afresh** love's long since cancell'd woe,
And moan the expense of many a vanish'd sight:
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er
The sad account of fore-bemoaned moan,
Which I **new pay** as if not paid before.
But if the **while I think on thee**, dear friend,
All losses are restor'd and sorrows end.

Modern Interpretation:

"When I summons the remembrance of past things to the court of sweet silent thought I regret not having achieved many of the things I strived for, and I add new tears to the old griefs, crying about the waste of my valuable time. It is then that I can drown my eyes, which don't often flow, thinking about precious friends who are dead; and weep all over again for love that has lost its pain long ago; and cry over many a sight I'll never see again. At those times I'm able to cry over sorrows I've long ago let go of, and sadly count them one by one, and feel them all over again, as though I hadn't suffered their pain before. But if, while doing that, I think about you, my dear friend, all those losses are restored and my pain ends."

-No Sweat Shakespeare

Setting

A Small Town

- The small town isn't given a definite date or place, it is to be kept very ambiguous but the obvious is that it is in urban America, around the age of invention. To be very precise, think 1960s South Carolina. The feeling itself has that wistful fairytale type feel to it without being medieval. It's that type of feeling where science and inventions border on magic.

The Memory Emporium

- The memory emporium is a big inviting warehouse-like building with lots of shelves and storage in the back. Outside there are signs and advertisements like "Forgive and Forget" "Return customers get up to 70% discounts" and "Forget your Worries." Based on the

exciting colors and such, it looks like it would be fun to go inside. Has a similar feeling to Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory that the inside is full of scientific magic.

Mr. Gregory's House

- Small simple rural home. One room, cozy and make-shift. Based in Tennessee, past the Appalachian mountains.

Characters

Cornelia



A kind and constant character. Doesn't learn the truth about her mother until Mr. Gregory gives her the jar of her mother's memories.

Cornelia's Grandparents



Took Care of Cornelia when her Mother left.

Mr. Gregory



Created the memory machine after his oldest son died. After being triggered continually by family, he forgets family and founded the memory emporium in a new town.

Mr. Gregory's Family



Wife and youngest son. When Mr. Gregory returns, they are willing to forgive him.

Cornelia's Mother



Chooses to forget and abandon her child because of trauma. Only seen in flashback

Cornelia's Father



Described only as a bad man and is the sole reason that Cornelia's mother wants to forget. Only seen in flashback.

Soundtrack

The soundtrack will features an Original Soundtrack by a hired composer. The background music will be based on the song "Beautiful Dreamer," which is a public domain piece published March of 1864. This piece was chosen because of the melancholy melody and the lyrics, "wake unto me." These words seem to emphasize a need to return to a familiar place. It is as if the beautiful dreamer is far away and to "wake unto me" would mean that they return. In alignment with the project, both Mr. Gregory and Cornelia's mother have chosen to allow

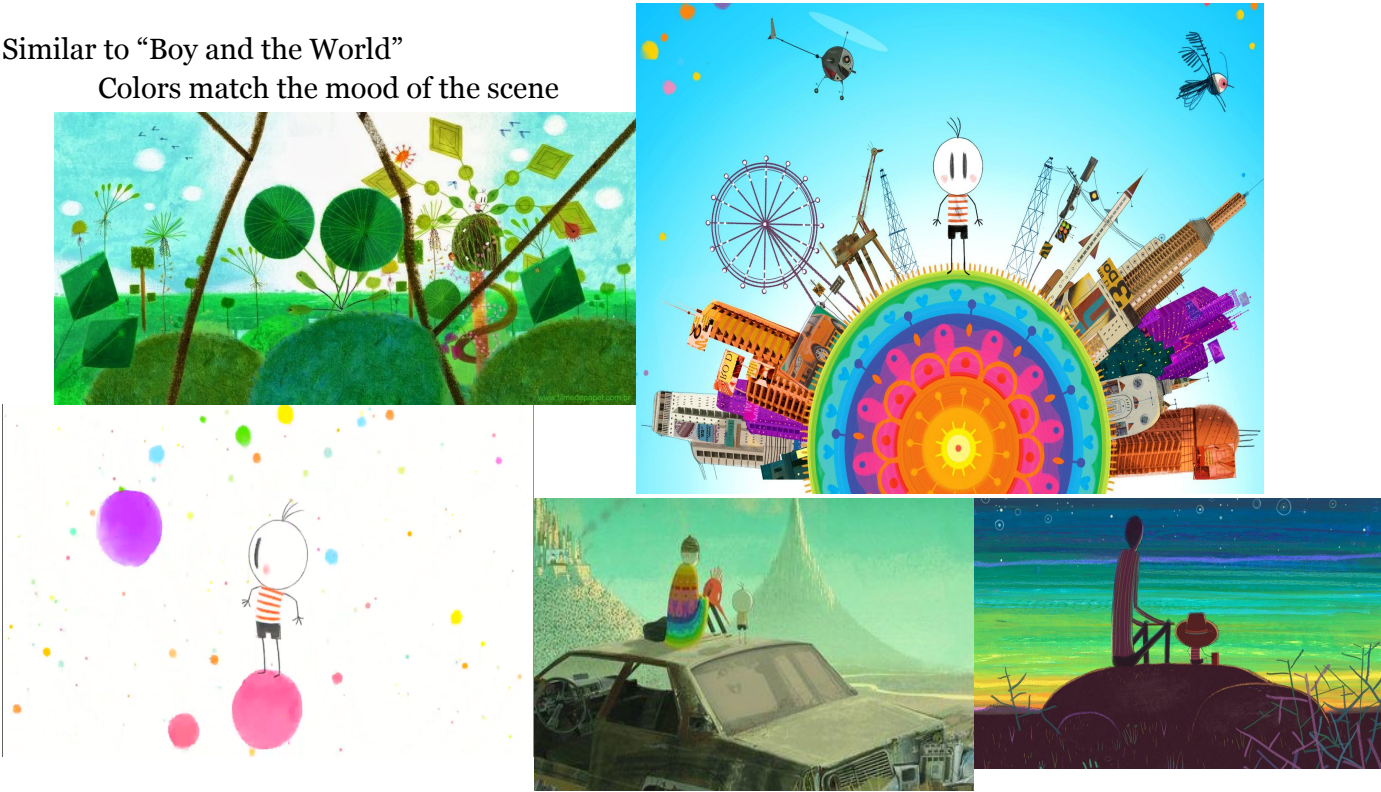
their memories to “fall asleep” in a sense. In that way is waking the representation of opening and remembering the memories and gaining back what was lost by the slumber.

“Beautiful Dreamer” link. A slight teaser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtgkLHQ52WE>

The project will incorporate narration and character dialogue but as little as possible, allowing the visuals to most adeptly tell the story while the dialogoue’s purpose is only to provide necessary information for the audience to be able to understand. The narration will introduce the world and explain vital points such as the 3 ways a memory can leave its jar. The character dialogue will be focused, purpose driven, succinct and direct. There will be no wasted words. Any words, whether narration or dialogue, will be used with extreme caution, as the emphasis is on the visual aspect of the project mixed with the original background song.

Style

Similar to “Boy and the World”
Colors match the mood of the scene



The memories are kept in mason jars and their colors are based on emotions.



Plot Structure:

ACT I

1. Set Up: Explain the Memory Emporium and Memory Jars
 - In this scene the audience will be introduced to the town and the memory emporium. They will learn about how memories are taken and stored in jars in the back. They will learn the 3 ways to regain memories: Death (if the person dies their memory dies with them), Opening (if someone chooses to open the jar and experience the memory), and Triggers (The person goes throughout their life and sees something that triggers the memory. At that point the memory becomes too potent and it breaks out of the jar and returns to the original holder.)
2. Introduce Cornelia
 - Cornelia is a little girl. Her father is a bad man, her mother left when she was little. She is cared for by her loving grandparents.
3. Cornelia meets Mr. Gregory
 - She's on her way to school. He asks her if there's anything she'd like to forget. She asks if there's anything he'd like to remember. He promises to remember her name.
4. Mr. Gregory opens the chest of his memories
 - Thinking about what Cornelia asked him he opens his own person trunk containing his memories. Nothing is shown but it is implied that his past is traumatic. Because of the trauma, he uses the memory machine on himself.

ACT II

5. Cornelia visits with Mr. Gregory
 - He doesn't remember who she is, he broke his promise. Seeing how she extremely sad by this, Mr. Gregory says that he'll go with her to check it out.
6. Cornelia convinces Mr. Gregory to open the chest
 - She reassures him that she will be there for him. He opens it. His traumatic past is revealed. Mr. Gregory had two sons, the first died. Because of the pain he created the memory machine so he would forget, however, whenever Mr. Gregory would return to his family, he was triggered and would remember. After this occurrence so many times, Mr. Gregory decided to leave for good and forget his family completely so he could start anew somewhere else. Cornelia tells Mr. Gregory to face his past and go back to his family.
7. Mr. Gregory Leaves

- He's going to face his past. Cornelia tells Mr. Gregory that she'll be with him in his heart and in his memories.
8. Years pass, Cornelia grows up
- Cornelia turned the memory emporium into a photo center.

ACT III

9. Mr. Gregory comes back
- He shares his journey about reuniting with family. The memory of Cornelia helped to give him the strength to try. He gives Cornelia the Jar containing her mother's memories.
10. Cornelia's Mother's memories
- Cornelia's mother was traumatized by the memory of Cornelia's father. She visited the memory emporium often to forget him. Seeing Cornelia would trigger the memories. She decided to forget Cornelia altogether and start a clean slate somewhere else. Cornelia decides to keep the memories, not to free them or to forget them.
11. Cornelia and Mr. Gregory take a picture together
- Cornelia is grateful for her memories, they make her who she is. Cornelia is grateful for her family (Grandparents and Mr. Gregory) and for their love

Essay, split into two sections

Morality

In this story both Mr. Gregory and Cornelia's mother leave because of a traumatic family incident. They saw leaving as their best option. As the Shakespeare line goes, "The sad account... Which I new pay as if not paid before" each time the mother and Mr. Gregory remembers, it is like they are reliving the memory new, as if they hadn't experienced it before. In life people choose many different coping mechanisms to deal with extreme stress and some of those coping mechanisms are not good however that doesn't make the people bad. People are people and their choices affect others. This story is not trying to justify the people in coping in bad ways but rather invites the idea that there is a different way to handle extreme problems. While this is an idea introduced it doesn't solve the dilemma of Cornelia's own mother and her decision to not release those memories. In that way Cornelia herself is almost saying that she will allow her mother to cope in this bad way. But if this bad way really is helping her mother cope, is it so bad? It could be argued that Cornelia is respecting her mother's decision and is seeing this denial of history as a way of letting her mother go free and move on. But on the other side, is the mother ever really moving on when she never faces that which she was running from. These two sides seem to be at such a stark contrast with themselves.

Nostalgia

The base words that great nostalgia are large themes incorporated into this story. While the definition of nostalgia being a home pain is prevalent the story seems to say in a sense that nostalgia can help to give one strength to face hard memories. Relating the parts based off the Shakespeare we see how this is presented. First there is the line "weep afresh" which gives meaning to both cases in which painful memories were triggered and caused the afflicted to feel their pain again. In their decisions to run away we understand that memories are not always beautiful things. In another case, it was the memory of Cornelia that gave Mr. Gregory the

strength to make it to his family and find a resolution as in the last line of the Shakespeare, “But if the while I think on thee, dear friend, All losses are restor’d and sorrows end.” In all these things it was the act of remembering that triggered action just as it is remembering that causes the sonnet to take shape, “I summon up remembrance of things past.” Memories are powerful things and they can both bring pain and joy even when we ourselves might be far, far away from the event.

Teaser

STORYBOARDS ATTACHED SEPARATELY

Sources

<https://nosweatshakespeare.com/sonnets/30/#:~:text=Sonnet%2030%20in%20modern%20English&text=It%20is%20then%20that%20I,I'll%20never%20see%20again>

<https://interestingliterature.com/2018/10/a-short-analysis-of-thomas-hoods-i-remember-i-remember/>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dumUElmlVJA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPgZJzQF1Yg>