

Bronson Green  
Professor Kozek  
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Discussion on *Pleasantville*

- I. First, What are your initial reactions to the film?
- II. What aspects of mathematics/dimensional spaces are truly depicted?
  - a. How does it differ from Flatland's 2-dimensional story?
- III. Pleasantville offers an interesting representation of societal issues including racism, gender roles, morality, and many others. How does the portrayal of women and sexuality in the movie reflect the historical context of the 1950's in the US?
  - a. In addition, how does the role of women in this film differ from what we've seen in other movies throughout the term?
  - b. What role does the mother play?
    - i. Is she committing adultery?
- IV. Discuss the role of characters changing sides and becoming colored
  - a. How is Mary Sue different in Pleasantville vs. the real world and why does she decide to stay?
    - i. Why did Bud choose to return?
  - b. At the end of the movie Bud's father is able to change into color through recognizing his love for his wife and her true beauty.
    - i. Does love have color?
    - ii. Does emotion?
    - iii. How does color play a role in the film?
- V. What is the role of Mr. Simmons and what do his artistic representations suggest?
  - i. What role does sex play in the art and throughout the film?
    1. Paintings of Bud's mother
    2. Mary Sue and lover's lane
- VI. What is the moral of the story?

- a. Is *Pleasantville* trying to convey some type of deeper meaning or significance?

References:

<http://www.entertainmentscene360.com/index.php/pleasantville-1998-review-analysis-sociology-psychology-spiderman-don-knox-toby-mcguire1950-17283/>

<http://www.jhu.edu/anthmedia/Projects/pleasantville/WManningAnthro/Conclusions.html>

<http://pleasantville-analysis.blogspot.com>

[http://www.spiritualityonscreen.org.uk/SoS\\_Pleasantville.pdf](http://www.spiritualityonscreen.org.uk/SoS_Pleasantville.pdf)

Mathematical Components:

Dimensional space: "In physics and mathematics, the dimension of a space or object is informally defined as the minimum number of coordinates needed to specify any point within it.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Thus a line has a dimension of one because only one coordinate is needed to specify a point on it (for example, the point at 5 on a number line). A surface such as a plane or the surface of a cylinder or sphere has a dimension of two because two coordinates are needed to specify a point on it (for example, to locate a point on the surface of a sphere you need both its latitude and its longitude). The inside of a cube, a cylinder or a sphere is three-dimensional because three coordinates are needed to locate a point within these spaces."

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimension\\_\(mathematics\\_and\\_physics\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimension_(mathematics_and_physics)))