

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs Film Summary

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs by Walt Disney

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Context

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs is the story of an abused princess who has to escape the castle in order to avoid being murdered by her stepmother, the Queen. It has become one of the most loved animated movies of all time. After the Queen learns from her Magic Mirror that Snow White is the loveliest woman in the country and sees the Prince serenading her, the Queen hires a woodcutter to murder Snow White. Instead of killing Snow White, the woodcutter tells her to run away. She meets animals in the forest, and they take her to the dwarfs' cottage. However, the Queen discovers from her mirror that Snow White is still alive.

The Queen creates an evil plan to put Snow White to sleep forever by giving her a poison called the sleeping death. Snow White eats the poisoned apple and falls into a deep slumber. Finally, the Prince comes wakes her with a kiss. They ride off into the sunset to live happily ever after.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was the first full-length animated feature from the United States. Although Walt Disney believed in his creation, Hollywood was skeptical. Many people called it "Disney's Folly." Walt Disney proved Hollywood wrong and changed the world of film forever. He still holds the record for winning thirty-two Oscars during his long career.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was a massive undertaking. Publicity material explains that, "production employed 32 animators, 102 assistants, 167 'in-betweeners,' 20 layout artists, 25 artists doing water color backgrounds, 65 effects animators, and 158 female inkers and painters. 2,000,000 illustrations were made using 1,500 shades of paint."

When creating the film, Disney was concerned about his animators losing their creativity, so he created the "five dollars a gag" policy. For example, Ward Kimball got five dollars when he suggested that the dwarfs' noses should pop over the footboards one by one while they are peeking at Snow White.

For this film, Walt Disney received an Honorary Academy Award for a significant screen innovation, which has charmed millions and pioneered a great new entertainment field. He received one regular sized statue and seven miniature statues. Leigh Harline, head of the music department, was nominated for an Oscar for the Best Music Score. At the Venice Film Festival, Walt Disney received the Grand Biennale Art Trophy Award.



Summary and Analysis

As *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* begins, a book with that title opens, and the audience sees the beginning of the story. We learn that Snow White's wicked stepmother, the Queen, is afraid of Snow White's beauty, and she forces Snow White to dress and work as a servant. The page turns, and we learn that the queen talks to her Magic Mirror on the wall each day to find out who was the "fairest of them all." As long as it answered in the Queen's favor, Snow White will be safe.

After this visual preface concludes, the Queen summons the spirit in the Magic Mirror, whose face appears amid flames. On this day, the mirror tells her that she is beautiful but that there is one in rags who is more fair than the Queen. The mirror reveals that the woman is Snow White.

Outside the castle, Snow White is singing to the birds as she cleans the steps of the castle. She goes over to a well to draw water, and she tells the pigeons that this is really a wishing well. According to Snow White, if the wish echoes in the well, then your wish will come true. Snow White wishes that the one she loves will find her today.

Suddenly, a man appears behind Snow White, and she runs away, scared. He then begins to serenade her, telling her that his heart only belongs to her. As he sings, the Queen looks out her window and sees him. She closes the curtains angrily. Snow White smiles and closes her curtains.

The Queen directs a huntsman to take Snow White into the forest, where she can pick flowers. Then, the Queen demands that the huntsman kill Snow White, but he protests. The Queen reminds him of a horrible penalty if he fails, and she gives him a box in which to put Snow White's heart after he kills her.

In the forest, the huntsman watches as Snow White sings and gathers flowers. A little bird begins chirping, and Snow White decides to comfort it. The huntsman watches and begins sneaking up behind her with sword drawn. The little bird sees its parents and flies away. Snow White turns around sees the huntsman and screams. The huntsman can't kill her, and he begs her forgiveness. He tells her that the Queen is mad with jealousy and that Snow White must run and hide.

Snow White rushes away deep into the forest, where she gets stuck on briars, sees large scary eyes and even falls into crocodile-infested water. She finally collapses on the ground weeping. Then, the lights come up, and we see that the eyes were rabbits and deer. She is in a lovely little clearing. One tiny rabbit comes up to sniff Snow White, and she squeals. Snow White then begs the animals not to run away and apologizes for frightening them.

Snow White tells the animals that she is ashamed for the way she's acted in her fright. She asks what they do, and her tiny bird friend begins to sing. She joins in the song as well, which seems to make things better. All the animals listen as she sings, and she



plays with each of them. She realizes that she has to find a place to live, and the animals let her know that they have just the place. They walk through the forest to the sound of music, leading her to a new home.

Snow White and the animals finally arrive at a small cottage in the forest in front of a stream. The house is a bit small for Snow White, but she thinks it looks like a dollhouse. She rubs off the windows and looks inside, but the house is dark. After knocking, Snow White opens the door to the little house and enters with the animals. Suddenly, Snow White squeals again about the cute little chairs, and the animals run away for a moment.

After seeing the seven chairs and the messy table, Snow White decides that seven little children must live here. Who else would leave their fireplace so covered in dust? Snow White decides that these poor children must be orphans without a mother. She feels sorry for them, so she decides to clean the house and surprise them in the hopes that they'll let her stay. She gives each of the animals a job, and she picks up the broom to begin cleaning. As they begin to work, all the birds chirp as Snow White sings "Whistle While You Work."

While Snow White and the animals are cleaning, a couple of squirrels get in trouble with the house mouse, and some other funny episodes occur. In no time at all, Snow White and the animals have the little house clean and tidy. They even put fresh flowers on the table and wash the clothes. After they finish, some of the animals go back to the forest.

Suddenly, the scene moves to a diamond and gemstone mine, where seven dwarfs work digging in the mine. They sing about getting rich quick by digging the diamonds. One of the dwarfs, Sneezzy, drives the cart and gets kicked by the donkey. Another, Doc, inspects the gemstones and then throws the bad ones on the floor so that another, Dopey, can throw them out. A clock begins to chime, and the inspector sings "Heigh-ho." Then everyone else joins in as they head home from work, with Dopey trailing in the back.

At the house, Snow White and the animals decide to investigate upstairs. The poor turtle has a terrible time trying to get up the stairs. Snow White sees all the beds with the names carved on them: Doc, Happy, Sneezzy, Dopey, Grumpy, Bashful and Sleepy.

Snow White realizes that she is sleepy, yawns and watches as all the animals begin to yawn as well. She lies down and falls asleep. The birds blow out the candle and cover up Snow White. The animals also lie down for a nap, but they run away quickly when they hear the dwarfs singing outside. The turtle has just made it upstairs when the animals rush down, and he falls all the way down the steps. The animals get out of the house just in time to miss the dwarfs. When the dwarfs see that the lights are lit in the house, Doc stops abruptly, and they all run into one another. They are afraid that it's a ghost or a thief. Grumpy says his corn is hurting, so that is a bad sign.

When the dwarfs go inside, they are sneaking around the floor with squeaky shoes when Dopey slams the door. They all jump. They begin to search everywhere, while the



birds look down from the rafters and the other animals watch at the windows. Suddenly, the dwarfs realize that the cobwebs are gone, the floor is swept and the dishes are cleaned. Grumpy feels that there is "dirty work" afoot. Doc gets excited when he discovers that there is something cooking that smells good. They make Sneezzy smell the flowers, and they all try to work together to keep him from sneezing. Instead, he sends them flying across the room with his sneeze.

A moment later the dwarfs hear a sound, but just then the birds screech to distract them. All the dwarfs jump for cover. The dwarfs decide that someone must go up and chase whatever is upstairs out of the house. Dopey looks around as they all stare at him. He tries to run away, but they shove him up the stairs. The steps squeak with every step he takes, and the other dwarfs encourage him by telling him that they are going to follow him.

Dopey finally reaches the top of the steps, opens the door and enters their bedroom. Snow White begins to stretch and groan under the sheet, and Dopey runs out thinking that she's a ghost. They all chase him as he runs down the stairs and won't let him outside. He finally gets outside, and they jump on him. He tells them that the thing upstairs was sleeping in the beds. They decide to attack while the monster is asleep.

As the dwarfs go inside, they hear Snow White groaning again. They finally climb the stairs and prepare to attack. They pull off the cover, but they stop when they see Snow White. They think she's really pretty, but Grumpy says that all females are "poison." They try to get him to be quiet so that she won't wake up. As she begins to wake, the dwarfs hide.

When Snow White sees the dwarfs' heads, she screams and pulls the covers up. She says hello to the little men, and Snow White is thrilled that they can talk. She tries to guess their names and gets everyone just right. They tell her that only Dopey doesn't talk because he never tried. Finally, they ask who she is, and she tells him that she is Snow White. They recognize her as the princess immediately. Grumpy is still mad that she's there, but the others want her to stay with them.

Snow White explains that the Queen wants to kill her, and Grumpy warns everyone that the Queen is evil and full of black magic. Snow White explains that the Queen doesn't know where she is. She offers to clean, wash and cook. After she mentions the things she can cook, everyone agrees that she can stay.

Snow White rushes downstairs to check on the dwarfs' dinner, and they all rush down to eat the soup. They fight over dishes at the table, and Snow White stops them so that they can wash before dinner. They can't figure out why they should wash, and when they claim to have washed, she makes them prove it by letting her see their hands. When the dwarfs show Snow White their hands, she sees that they are absolutely filthy. They are all ashamed of their state, except for Grumpy who is just mad. She warns them that if they won't wash, she won't give them any dinner. Grumpy tries to refuse, sticks out his tongue, marches off in defiance and runs into the door. After his embarrassment, Grumpy sits down outside and grumbles about women. Doc



encourages them as they go toward the water, but Grumpy warns them that if they "give an inch," the princess will walk all over them.

Doc then gives a lesson in song about how to wash while Grumpy makes fun of the others. While he laughs, they make a plan and begin to saunter toward him. They surround Grumpy, grab him and toss him in the water. Dopey tries to catch the soap, but it keeps getting away from him. He even swallows it and produces bubbles.

There is a full moon as the Queen holds the woodcutter's box and talks to the mirror at the castle. She is again told that Snow White is still the fairest, and she is living with the dwarfs. The mirror tells the Queen that the heart in the box is that of a pig. She is angry at being tricked and decides to take matters into her own hands. The Queen decides to disguise herself and go to the cottage. The Queen spends some time making her spell and turns herself into an ugly old hag. Even her bird is afraid of her. In order to kill Snow White, the Queen creates a poisoned apple so that Snow White will enter into a sleeping death.

At the dwarfs' cottage, Snow White has no idea what's going to happen to her. Along with the dwarfs, she sings and watches as they dance. While they play instruments and sing, Snow White dances with them. Dopey even gets on Sneezy's shoulders at one point so that they can put on a jacket and dance with Snow White at her level. When Sneezy sneezes, though, Dopey goes flying up into the rafters.

When the dwarfs finish their song and dance, they ask Snow White to tell a story. She begins to tell a story about her life. She tells him that she fell in love with Prince. She then begins to sing about him in the famous song "Someday My Prince Will Come." Snow White believes that he will find her again someday, and they will ride off to live happily ever after.

As Snow White finishes her song, the clock begins to chime. She then sends the dwarfs upstairs to bed. Doc decides that Snow White will sleep upstairs in their beds and that they will sleep downstairs. They all agree, as Dopey spots a pillow. He sneaks off to get to it first. Snow White goes upstairs as Dopey lies down with his pillow on the bench, and they assure her that they'll be comfortable.

As soon as Snow White closes the door, the dwarfs begin to fight over the pillow and rip it into pieces. Dopey picks up one feather and falls asleep happily. Upstairs Snow White prays for a blessing on the dwarfs and for her dreams to come true. She also prays that Grumpy will begin to like her, and he gripes after he hears her.

Back at the castle, the Queen finishes making the poisoned apple. The Queen also tries to make sure that there isn't an antidote. When she discovers that the cure is love's first kiss, she knows that there is no fear of that. Snow White will probably be buried alive. As she walks out of the dungeon, the audience sees a skeleton lying there. The Queen then gets into a boat and heads toward the dwarfs' cottage.

The next morning, Doc warns Snow White to beware of strangers because the Queen is a tricky woman. Then they all go out to work at the mine, as she gives them each a little



kiss on the head. Dopey tries for a kiss on the lips, but she kisses him on the head instead. Dopey has a brilliant idea and enters a window, trying to come back for more. Grumpy is the last to leave, and he tries to get Snow White's attention before he leaves. She is happy to find out that he cares even though he tries to walk away as if he doesn't. While trying to be macho, he gets his nose stuck in a tree, falls in the stream and bumps his head on the bridge.

After the dwarfs go off to work, the Queen makes her way through the forest in her disguise. At home, Snow White makes pie and sings a beautiful song. Suddenly, the Queen, in disguise, appears at the window and asks about the dwarfs. The old woman asks about the pies and tries to convince Snow White to make a pie with the apples that the old woman has in a basket. The woman tries to convince Snow White to taste one, as the buzzards watch from the above tree. The birds try to stop the princess by attacking the disguised Queen, and Snow White goes out to stop them. She apologizes to the woman, who asks Snow White to let her inside so that she can rest.

The animals watch at the window, and then they all take off to find the dwarfs. They arrive just as the dwarfs are arriving at work. The animals try to forcibly pull the dwarfs back toward their home. Meanwhile, back at the cottage, the old woman tells Snow White that the apple is actually a magic wishing apple that will allow all her dreams to come true after just one bite.

Sleepy is falling asleep when he says that the Queen might have Snow White. All the dwarfs decide they must do something. They ride on the backs of the deer so that they can get home as quickly as possible. As usual, the poor turtle is left behind.

In the house, the woman tries to push the apple on Snow White by using the idea that she could get whoever she loves. The woman hands the princess the apple, and Snow White begins to wish. While she is wishing, the animals and dwarfs are rushing through the forest. Then the woman encourages her to take a bite quickly so that the wish doesn't grow cold. Suddenly, the viewers see Snow White's hand on the floor as the apple rolls away. As the Queen cackles, a terrible storm begins over the forest.

Grumpy spots the old hag as she runs through the forest, and they chase her to the edge of a cliff. They finally corner her, as the buzzards watch nearby. The Queen tries to push a boulder down on the dwarfs, but lightning strikes the rock beneath her. She falls, and the boulder falls down on top of her. The buzzards begin to circle.

Next, the audience sees Snow White lying on a bed with a candle on each side. The dwarfs cry as they gather around. Grumpy sobs the hardest. Outside, the animals stand in the rain and look in silently. Words now come on the screen, telling viewers that since Snow White was so beautiful, even though she was dead, they couldn't bear to bury her. They made a gold and glass coffin and watched by her side through the seasons. The Prince heard the story and searched for the maiden in the coffin.

As the dwarfs bring spring flowers, viewers hear the Prince singing. Suddenly, he is walking into the clearing where Snow White's casket lies, and he walks toward her. The

dwarfs step aside to make way for him. The glass top is off, and the Prince kisses Snow White.

All at once, Snow White's eyes flutter open, and she begins to move. The dwarfs, the animals and the Prince all look on in shock and excitement as Snow White sits up. They all begin to dance, as the Prince carries Snow White to his white horse. She tells the dwarfs goodbye. She and the Prince ride off in the sunset toward his castle, as a chorus sings of love in the background. Writing then shows up on the screen to let viewers know that they lived happily ever after.



Characters

Snow White voiced by Adriana Caselotti

Description

Snow White is a beautiful princess who is considered the most beautiful in the land by the Magic Mirror. The Queen becomes insanely jealous and tries to kill Snow White, who runs off into the forest and makes friends with the animals.

Snow White meets the seven dwarfs in the forest, and she lives with them. She cleans their house, cooks their dinner and entertains them. They become like a family. She is poisoned by the Queen with a sleeping death potion. Finally, her Prince comes kisses her, and she love's first kiss wakes her, allowing her to live happily ever after.

Analysis

Snow White is the most beautiful of all the creatures, and this makes everyone, including the animals, fall in love with her. She is also gentle and pure of heart. Her greatest desire is love, and she is a mothering woman who takes care of those around her. The Prince falls for Snow White in the first moments of meeting her. The Queen's jealousy, though, sentences her to a life of pain.

Queen voiced by Lucille La Verne

Description

The Queen is in charge of Snow White. She has made her into a servant so that she will never become as beautiful as the Queen. When the Magic Mirror finally begins to report that Snow White is more beautiful than the Queen, the Queen is outraged. She wants to put an end to this foolishness and decides to kill Snow White.

When the Queen's first plan doesn't work because of the kindness of the huntsman, the Queen moves on to take care of Snow White herself. She decides to poison her with the sleeping death. After she completes her plan, though, the Queen is chased and falls off a cliff to her death.

Analysis

The Queen is evil, vain and jealous. She cares only about her looks and expects to be the most beautiful woman in the land forever. When Snow White begins to take her place, she is stricken with jealousy and decides that she must kill Snow White. She doesn't stop at one try, either. She poisons the princess in person, but then is killed after completing her mission. The Queen's vanity and jealousy cause her own downfall.



Doc voiced by Roy Atwell

Description

Doc is the most responsible of the dwarfs. He seems to be the oldest and gives the best advice to Snow White.

Analysis

Doc is very protective of Snow White and the other dwarfs.

Sleepy voiced by Pinto Colvig

Description

Sleepy is known for his habit of yawning and falling asleep all the time.

Analysis

Sleepy is sweet to Snow White, even though he seems to fall asleep in the strangest places sometimes.

Grumpy voiced by Pinto Colvig

Description

Grumpy is always negative about everything. He doesn't like the idea of Snow White coming to live with them and doesn't feel bad for saying so. Eventually, he is the one that cares about her the most.

Analysis

Grumpy's love for Snow White takes a long time to develop, but when it does, it is the strongest love of all. Grumpy makes a show of being cynical and macho, but his sweet heart betrays him.

Sneezy voiced by Billy Gilbert

Description

Sneezy is defined by his continual sneezing.



Analysis

Sneezy doesn't have a huge role in the film, but his sneezes always come at the worst times and bring lots of laughter.

Happy voiced by Otis Harlan

Description

Unlike Grumpy, Happy looks at everything in a positive light.

Analysis

Happy makes everything more enjoyable just by lighting the room up with his smile.

Bashful voiced by Scotty Matraw

Description

Bashful is extremely shy and will barely talk to Snow White when she arrives, but he eventually comes around.

Analysis

Bashful's shyness is finally overcome by his love for Snow White's kindness and beauty.

Dopey voiced by Eddie Collins

Description

Dopey is mute. He is the youngest dwarf and has no beard. He doesn't talk throughout the whole film, and his clothes are too big. He's always doing something clumsy. He absolutely adores Snow White and can never get enough attention from her.

Analysis

Dopey is the comedian of the film. He is always doing something funny, whether it's running into a door or dancing with Snow White.



Huntsman voiced by Stuart Buchanan

Description

The huntsman is ordered by the Queen to kill Snow White in the forest and bring her heart back. He doesn't want to, but as one of the Queen's people, he has no choice. When he gets to the forest, the huntsman tells Snow White the truth and insists that she run away. He takes back a pig's heart instead of Snow White's. Eventually, the Queen discovers the truth because of the mirror.

Analysis

The huntsman has a kind heart. He cannot bear to kill innocent Snow White. Instead, he risks his life to send her away to safety. Although his plan does not work, he shows his goodness through his actions.

Magic Mirror voiced by Moroni Olsen

Description

The Magic Mirror is the Queen's tool to be reassured about her beauty daily. Every day for years she asks, "Who is the fairest in the land?" She always receives the same answer: She is the fairest. One day, though, the mirror reports that Snow White is the fairest, and the Queen goes crazy with jealousy.

Analysis

The Magic Mirror ends up being the source of Snow White's trouble. After it tells the Queen the truth, the Queen plans to kill Snow White. Even after Snow White escapes, the mirror is forced to tell the Queen the truth about her whereabouts.

Prince voiced by Harry Stockwell

Description

The Prince meets Snow White one day at her castle and serenades her while she stands on her balcony. After she is forced to run away, they do not see each other again until he hears about her glass coffin. He comes to see her, and when he gives her true love's first kiss, she wakes up. After finding that his true love is alive again, the Prince carries her off into the sunset to live happily ever after.

Analysis

The Prince is the stereotypical handsome Prince who saves the princess in distress. After one meeting, he falls in love with Snow White and wants to marry her. When he wakes her up, they ride off into the sunset on his beautiful white stallion.



Themes

True Love

Many fairytales revolve around true love. The Prince and Snow White find true love through only one meeting. When the Prince first sees her, he falls for Snow White and serenades her. She climbs up to a balcony and watches with adoration as he sings to her.

After Snow White has to run away, the relationship comes quickly to an end. Eventually, the Prince hears about the beautiful maiden who has died but still looks alive in the forest. When he comes to her, he recognizes Snow White and kisses her softly. This kiss - the first kiss of true love - brings Snow White back to life, confirming the power of love. Because true love lasts forever, Snow White and the Prince live happily ever after.

Dangers of Jealousy

Jealousy is one of the most dangerous of all human emotions. It can destroy relationships, families and lives. In Snow White's case, the Queen becomes insanely jealous when the mirror tells her that Snow White is now more beautiful than the Queen.

The Queen decides that she cannot risk having Snow White be more beautiful than she is, so she plans to have Snow White killed by the huntsman. When those plans fail because of the huntsman's kind heart, the Queen then takes things into her own hands.

By poisoning an apple and changing her appearance, the Queen goes to Snow White and tries to kill her. She can only make Snow White fall into a sleeping death that can be overcome by a kiss of true love. Although she puts Snow White into the sleep of death for a little while, the Prince saves her. The Queen dies as she tries to escape after visiting Snow White. Her powerful jealousy and evil plans only end up hurting her in the end.

Constant Friendship

One of the keys to life is constant friendship. Friendship can be the key to surviving the most difficult situations. Snow White is surrounded by friends. The first one we see is the huntsman, who cannot bear to kill her. Although they don't know each other well, her kindness and innocence keep him from harming her. After she is left alone in the frightening forest, Snow White makes friends with the animals, and because of this friendship, all of her fears seem to melt away. Her friends, the animals, bring her to the dwarfs and also warn the dwarfs of the Queen's evil scheme.

When Snow White first meets the seven dwarfs, they want her to go away since she is messing up their normal way of life. They eventually see the good in her, especially after

she makes them dinner. They prove to be some of the best friends she could ever have, as they try to keep her safe.

Although the dwarfs aren't able to protect Snow White from the Queen in the end, they do make a memorial to her rather than burying her. In this way, they leave the option open so that the Prince can come and revive her later. True love and friendship save Snow White's life so that she can live happily ever after with her Prince.

Style and Cinematography

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs changed the world of film. It was the first full-length animated feature from the United States. Although Walt Disney believed in his creation, most people called it "Disney's Folly." Walt Disney proved Hollywood wrong and changed film forever. He still holds the record for winning the most Oscars. During his long career, he won thirty-two Oscars from his exceptional films.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was a massive undertaking requiring hundreds of workers and thousands of colors. According to publicity material, "production employed 32 animators, 102 assistants, 167 'in-betweeners,' 20 layout artists, 25 artists doing water color backgrounds, 65 effects animators, and 158 female inkers and painters. 2,000,000 illustrations were made using 1,500 shades of paint."

This film paved the way for all future animated films. The film was beautiful and exciting. The songs in the film also created a new genre, as it combined the new animated film with musical qualities.



Motifs

Woman versus Woman

Usually we hear about the struggle between man versus man. In *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, though, the problems are between Snow White and the Queen. These characters represent stereotypical views of women. Snow White embodies all the womanly attributes traditionally desirable in a wife. She is a good cook and housekeeper. She is friendly, gentle and uncomplaining. Of course, she is also beautiful. The Queen, the older woman, has become jaded by the fear of her fading looks, the only attribute she has to give her wealth and success. Jealousy and vanity (attributes stereotypically associated with women) come between them, as the Queen struggles to keep her place in life.

The Queen has always been the most beautiful person in the land, and she can't bear the idea of giving up her role to Snow White. She asks her Magic Mirror daily about her status as the most beautiful, and when she finally gets the answer she's been dreading, she takes action. Although the Queen tries to destroy Snow White, Snow White remains innocent and honest. She can't understand why she is the object of the Queen's wrath, so she simply tries to make the best of a bad situation. In the struggle of woman versus woman in this film, the good woman finally wins because of her goodness and her friends.

The Evil Stepmother

The Queen represents the evil stepmother in this film. Although it is hard to tell how Princess Snow White and the Queen are related, most assume that the Queen is the stepmother. Like many stepmothers in fiction, and particularly in fairy tales, the Queen is portrayed as evil, jealous and hateful toward Snow White. As Snow White grows, she threatens the Queen's position in the world. When the Queen realizes that Snow White's beauty has finally surpassed her own, she cannot handle coming in second. Instead, she tries to have the huntsman kill Snow White. When this plan doesn't work, the Queen decides that she must take care of Snow White on her own.

The Queen comes up with a plan to poison Snow White with the sleeping death in the hopes that Snow White will be buried before anyone notices something unusual. In the end, the Queen falls to her death as the dwarfs chase her after she leaves their house.

Unusual Saviors

Snow White's goodness brings many people to her aid. First, the huntsman refuses to kill her when the Queen orders him. Instead, he warns Snow White, telling her to run away. Instead of delivering Snow White's heart to the Queen, he delivers a pig's heart. He risks his own life to save Snow White's.



After the huntsman saves Snow White, she also receives assistance from the animals of the forest. Unlike most humans, she is kind to them, talks to them and helps them. They decide to help her find a safe place, so they lead her to the dwarfs' cottage.

After all the unusual help Snow White has already received, the dwarfs are no surprise. They are happy to help her after she tells her story. She also cooks and cleans for them so that their lives will be a little happier. The dwarfs become extremely attached to Snow White, and they show their love by attempting to save her from the Queen.

Symbols

The Apple

After the Queen discovers that she is not the most beautiful woman in the land, she decides that she must put an end to Snow White in order to retrieve her position. When sending the huntsman to kill her doesn't work, the Queen takes things into her own hands by creating an apple poisoned with the sleeping death.

Connected with the Biblical story of Adam and Eve, the apple is a symbol of sin and evil. In this case, the apple itself has been poisoned in order to murder Snow White. The audience discovers through the film that the apple does not dictate the end of everything, though. Although Snow White seems to be completely dead, she is actually waiting for true love to wake her up. Finally, her Prince comes and rescues her with a simple kiss and brings her back to life.

The Diamonds

When the viewers first meet the seven dwarfs, they are working in the mines and gathering diamonds and other precious jewels. They may not have a lot in their house, but they make a good living mining. The diamonds are representative of the care that the dwarfs take for Snow White. Although they start out with diamonds to protect, they end up with Snow White, who needs to be protected from the Queen. They quickly take on the challenge, as she takes care of them as well.

The Kiss

The Prince's kiss saves Snow White after she has been put to sleep by the sleeping death potion the Queen gave her. She lies in her glass coffin for a long time, as the dwarfs bring flowers and cry beside her coffin. Finally, the Prince arrives and saves her from her curse.

The Prince serves as a savior figure for Snow White. He effectively saves her from the Queen's final curse. He refuses to let her go, and he kisses her in one final tribute to her beauty. After he kisses her, her eyes flutter open, and she wakes up. The kiss symbolizes true love and the life that will bring them such happiness.



Essay Questions

What is the Queen's question to the mirror? Why is this so important to the Queen?

How does the Queen try to murder Snow White? Why do her plans fail?

Where does Snow White find to stay, and who shows her this place?

What qualities of Snow White allow her to befriend everyone she meets?

How does the Queen find out that Snow White is still alive?

What is the Queen's new plan to kill Snow White?

What is the only antidote to the potion that the Queen prepares? Why is this appropriate to the story and its themes?

Who warns the dwarfs of the Queen's arrival?

What does the apple symbolize?

How does Snow White awake from the sleeping death?