

Life as we know it – Film text, 2010. Director – Greg Berlanti

Opening – Montage, Holly getting ready for a date. Indicating to the audience a success, educated, professional middle-aged women who lives alone in a nice apartment.

Messer – represented as lay back, single, player, limited responsibility, playful, serial dater. Wearing casual attire and baseball cap. Rides a motor bike and hasn't made dinner reservations. He believes this isn't his role as the male.

Introduction of the off-set leading characters. These are the families who live in the neighbourhood. They are all in partnerships. The married couples are represented with humour. Quite often the women is dictating to the man to do things for her and the children. The audience identify these attitudes and behaviours as humorous as the way it is portrayed through acting and casting.

Holly owns her own business. The story arc of this female role is as follows – Success then set back then another set back to final of victory (but only when she has the support of the man).

Messer works in Sports production. His career story arc goes like this: Success – slight set back – promotion and victory.

When they receive the baby it is obvious to the audience they are both not ready. Shown to be stressed, reading books about babies, not sleeping, running around and fumbling.

Quote from Messer to Holly:

“in the single world, a women of your age is considered complicated”. This implies to the audience that a women in her early 30s should be married, having babies already and if she isn't something must be wrong with her. However, the same thing doesn't apply to the men in there 30s.

Nappy changing scene: Holly, “I'm not changing it, what cause I'm a girl?” Although she finally changes it, she doesn't do it effectively.

Development of the narrative:

Both leads represented playful not responsible, uneducated when it comes to raising children.

Conventions:

Acting

Sound

Character Development

Story Arcs

Cause & Effect

Messer outfits: Baseball cap / track pants / Flano top

Story arc of narrative: Failure to success to victory. Narrative progression.

Explicit Ideology of feminism.

Point of view: Both from Holly & Messer.

Resolution begins with shift in character development. Both leads take action to grow up. Sound shifts song, upbeat, positive and indicates a sense of purpose and direction.

They start acting like invested parents. Being joyful and operating as a team when it comes to raising the child.

The idea of Messer & Holly to become a couple is presented to the audience. The ideology of family and what they should look and feel like is revealed.

Sound levels drop. Music becomes romantic. The audience start to root for the characters to become a couple.

Resolution – male character becomes more successful while the female character puts her job on hold. Her expansion doesn't happen.

Baby stays with female while Messer goes to Phoenix.