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The Allegory of the Maze: A Metaphor for Life's Challenges

In the labyrinth of cinematic narrative, editing emerges as an effective instrument for reflecting the characters' difficult experiences inside the Maze Runner series. Drawing inspiration from film theorist Gilles Deleuze's investigation of the time-image in cinema, the series' confusing and suspenseful editing methods generate a profound sense of unease for both the characters and the viewer. Deleuze's conceptions of the crystal-image and time-crystal become especially pertinent as the film progresses, depicting a shattered world that contradicts standard linear narratives. Movement-images and time-images represent two contrasting aspects in film: movement-images focus on how the world and bodies are depicted through the sensory-motor system, organising pure memory and natural thought, while time-images aim to disrupt and unsettle the sensory-motor system by exploring pure memory and unintentional thought. The crystal-image depicts a reality that is shattered and multifaceted, blending past, present, and future. Filmmakers use fragmentation to represent the intricate nature of the mind and memory, enabling them to portray time in a subjective and nonlinear manner. As the protagonists traverse the maze's twists and turns, the intentional manipulation of time through editing heightens the tension while also prompting philosophical contemplation on the essence of life.

In the words of Aristotle, "He who has overcome his fears will truly be free." (Aristotle, n.d.) It suggests that achieving true enlightenment often involves confronting the most negative aspects of ourselves and our situations. To achieve growth and transformation, we need to face our fears, shadows, and inner demons. The remark emphasises the importance of embracing life's obstacles and tribulations as opportunities for self-discovery and eventual triumph, similar to how one cannot fully appreciate light without experiencing darkness which relates closely to the Maze Runner film.

The plot takes place in a post-apocalyptic future where a strange and deadly virus known as the "Flare" has decimated the planet. The protagonists, a group of young boys known as the Gladers, are imprisoned inside a huge maze and have no recollection of their previous existence. Their only option for escape is to solve the

complicated riddles and navigate the dangerous paths of the ever-changing maze. The Gladers, led by Thomas, a brave and resolute young man, form friendships, discover secrets, and confront impossible difficulties as they try to live in their constricted environment. Along the road, they meet bizarre and dangerous creatures called as Grievers, further emphasising the urgency of their escape.

In the Books, there were two Mazes: one for Group A and one for Group B. Both were dug deep into the bedrock beneath WICKED's main headquarters buildings. Because they were underground, the light and sky were simulated, and it was always sunny (until the Ending). The Griever Hole served as the entrance and exit to the Mazes. In the Maze Runner series, the relationship between editing techniques and visual storytelling serves as a channel for significant philosophical research, as the uncertainty, disintegration, and manipulation of time within the cinematic storytelling represent existential uncertainties, one's search for identity, and humanity's quest for purpose. According Jean-Paul Sartre (Sartre, n.d.) "Man is condemned to be free. Condemned, because he did not create himself, in other respect is free; because, once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does." This quote highlights the deep idea that humans are constrained by their own freedom and weighed down by the acts they commit. Sartre's remarks characterise the state of mankind and offer a philosophical framework to analyse our choices, moral issues, and individual responsibility. We learn more about the characters' journeys through the maze and their existential conflicts by dissecting the subtle editing decisions and their philosophical ramifications, which finally highlights the unbreakable bond between philosophical investigation and cinematic craftsmanship.

Morality and ethics are directly tied to cinema philosophy. Movies have the ability to both represent moral dilemmas and pose them. Characters in the series encounter moral and ethical dilemmas. An important question concerns if it is ethical to sacrifice one individual or a group of individuals in order to save a bigger group. The series repeatedly addresses this subject in several significant and subtle ways. Is it ethical for Alec to murder the Toad in The murder Order if it increases the survival chances of the other settlers? Is it ethical for WICKED to permit Chuck's murder in the conclusion of The Maze Runner? While some films pose moral questions, others actually do. All films, in my opinion, are entwined with an ethics that establishes what

constitutes morality. In this sense, ethics is normative where it is the framework that gives morality its significance. Undoubtedly, a lot of people watch films, but a lot more people still watch television and read books which these things together create the ethical framework that allows for the making of moral judgements. Perhaps I should say 'ethical alternate universes' (Orzel, 2008) which there is more than one ethical world, so what is regarded immoral in one place or time may be seen as right in others.

One of the most powerful qualities of visual storytelling in film is its capacity to convey complicated thoughts and feelings in a straightforward and direct manner. This can be seen in the usage of visual metaphors, which include using an image to represent an idea, such as a broken mirror indicating shattered self-esteem. The immense size of the Maze, the nightly changing walls, and the presence of the Grievors represent frustration and utter disorder for the Gladers. By the application of visual language, filmmakers may transmit complex emotions and concepts in a form that is easily understood by the audience, even without the need for dialogue or narration. In along with expressing complicated concepts and emotions, visual storytelling in film can be employed to generate a sense of immersion among the audience. This can be accomplished through the utilisation of magnificent sceneries, sophisticated sets, and elaborate character designs.

Sergei Eisenstein, a filmmaker from the Soviet Union, is strongly identified with the concept of editing as montage. Despite the fact that montage is just the French word for editing, the term has come to be used to refer to a theory of editing that places an emphasis on the contrasts and breaks that occur between pictures that are connected together by a cut. Continuity editing maintains the coherence of a scene. The frame's content is the primary element. A often referenced instance of rhythmic montage is the Odessa Steps scene in the film *Battleship Potemkin* (1925), which was closely replicated in a comparable staircase scene in *The Untouchables* (1987). Montage sequences are employed to introduce and elaborate on each individual in the series. In the first film, rapid cuts and montage are used during the "greenie" orientation process to display brief glimpses of each character's personality, abilities, and early responses to the Glade and the maze. The rapid sequence of pictures enables viewers to swiftly understand the varied characteristics and histories of the characters.

The maze in the Maze Runner series symbolises existential issues and uncertainty in the human experience. The filmmakers skilfully blend narrative strands of the maze using advanced editing and visual storytelling techniques, leading viewers on a philosophical journey of self-discovery, resilience, and the pursuit of meaning in challenging circumstances. This essay will analyse how editing/visual storytelling and philosophical investigation enhance our comprehension of the allegorical aspect of the maze, revealing the deep existential issues inside the Maze Runner series.

Allegorical Storytelling and Philosophical Inquiry in Film Production

An allegory is a comprehensive story that appears to be about one subject but actually conveys a different meaning, while a metaphor is a statement or brief passage that compares two apparently unrelated subjects. Embracing allegorical storytelling in future filmmaking provide filmmakers with a potent weapon to delve into intricate topics and societal challenges in a subtle and captivating way. The maze in the Maze Runner series symbolises existential issues and uncertainty in the human experience. The filmmakers skilfully blend narrative strands of the maze using advanced editing and visual storytelling techniques, leading viewers on a philosophical journey of self-discovery, resilience, and the pursuit of meaning in challenging circumstances. This essay will analyse how editing/visual storytelling and philosophical investigation enhance our comprehension of the allegorical aspect of the maze, revealing the deep existential issues inside the Maze Runner series.

Søren Kierkegaard said that "Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom" (Kierkegaard, 1844) which refers to the overwhelming feeling of exploring the limitless potential of one's own opportunities. Anxiety is necessary for human growth and development. Within the maze, the characters encounter ongoing peril and unpredictability, eliciting emotions of fear and dread. This quote encapsulates the existential dread felt by the protagonists as they struggle with the repercussions of their decisions and the uncertainty of their situations. How this could be applied to communication practices is emotional awareness, is crucial for successful communication with others. Enhanced emotional awareness leads to improved

communication skills. You will observe the emotions of others and how their feelings impact their communication. Understanding that anxiety may arise from the abundance of choices and lack of clarity, communicators can engage in conversations with understanding and sensitivity, fostering a conducive atmosphere for conversation. This infers growth in the form of an opportunity to become self-aware, the need for personal responsibility and the potential for learning and growing from experience. (Slater, 2019)

Delving into philosophical concepts in storytelling will certainly create a significant transformation in my work as a storyteller. My stories will start to explore deeper ideas, making them richer and more meaningful. This way, readers can think about big questions about life, right and wrong, and what it means to be human. My characters will become more complex, dealing with life's big challenges, and making tough choices. These stories will make people think about what's right and wrong, and see how choices have big effects. I'll also try new ways of telling stories, using symbols and a calming pace to share big ideas in a clear way. This will not only keep readers hooked but also make them think deeply. As I dive into these deeper stories, I plan to work with experts from different fields. This will help bring new ideas and creativity into my work, making the stories even better. By exploring these deep questions, I hope to grow as a writer and a person, learning more about life and people along the way.

Embracing Philosophical Ambiguity in Film Production

"Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent."

The saying "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent" highlights those times when words just aren't enough to fully explain how complex or deep a thought, emotion, or situation is. It suggests that filmmakers should be okay with stories that aren't so clear-cut and should use quiet scenes or images to share their messages. By realizing words have their limits, filmmakers can use silence in their movies to bring out feelings, get people thinking, and deeply draw in their audience. Letting a story have parts that aren't so clear means purposely adding moments of doubt, endless possibilities, and tricky parts to the story. Filmmakers mix in these

uncertain bits in their stories to push viewers to think harder about the story and come up with their own ideas, rather than just handing them all the answers or neatly tying up every part of the tale. Filmmakers can make their stories have this kind of uncertainty by purposefully not explaining every detail of the plot. This can mean characters with unclear reasons for what they do, parts of the story that don't wrap up neatly, or endings that make viewers think about different ways things could turn out. By letting their stories be a bit uncertain, filmmakers get viewers more involved and thinking deeper about the story. Using uncertainty in a story can help create a certain feel, mood, and emotional impact. Using images, symbols, and metaphors that are open to interpretation can spark curiosity and interest, pulling viewers into the story and making them think about what it all really means. By welcoming this uncertainty, filmmakers can make movies that touch on a wide range of emotions and thoughts, making for a richer and more captivating watching experience.

The broader implications of philosophical concepts in filmmaking extend beyond mere entertainment, shaping cultural discourse, societal values, and individual perspectives. Philosophical ideas imbue films with depth, resonance, and intellectual significance, inviting audiences to engage with complex themes and existential questions that transcend the screen. Philosophical notions in filmmaking have far-reaching effects on cultural discourse, society ideals, and individual viewpoints, going beyond simply entertainment. Philosophical concepts enrich films by adding depth, meaning, and intellectual importance, encouraging viewers to explore intricate topics and existential inquiries that go beyond the movie screen. Philosophical themes in filmmaking have significant ramifications that go beyond entertainment, influencing cultural discussion, society ideals, and individual viewpoints. Philosophical concepts enrich films by adding depth, meaning, and intellectual importance, encouraging viewers to explore intricate topics and existential inquiries that go beyond the movie screen.

Philosophical notions play a crucial role in cinema by providing a foundation for creating engaging tales, thought-provoking themes, and deep character development. Filmmakers are able to draw from a diverse range of philosophical concepts to explore profound ideas, themes, and existential inquiries that deeply connect with viewers on

a universal scale. Philosophical notions add depth, relevance, and intellectual value to films by probing the nature of reality, the meaning of existence, ethical challenges, and the intricacies of human nature. Integrating philosophical themes into filmmaking enables filmmakers to surpass genre and narrative norms, promoting innovation, originality, and artistic expression. Filmmakers use existential issues like identity, free choice, and the search for meaning in their films to evoke introspection, empathy, and dialogue among audiences.

Furthermore, the capacity to articulate and debate philosophical concepts is crucial in portraying them effectively in films. Filmmakers use dialogue, visual imagery, symbolism, and metaphor to transform abstract philosophical ideas into concrete narrative aspects that attract and fascinate viewers. Dialogue among characters can be used to delve into intricate concepts and partake in philosophical discussions, whereas visual storytelling methods like cinematography, production design, and editing can communicate profound meanings and elicit emotional reactions. Moreover, the act of conveying and debating philosophical concepts through filmmaking promotes cooperation and interdisciplinary communication among filmmakers, writers, philosophers, and scholars. Discussing existential topics, ethical considerations, and philosophical inquiries helps filmmakers improve their storytelling skills and gain a deeper insight into the human experience. The value of broader philosophical concepts in cinema resides in their ability to inspire, challenge, and provoke audiences, promoting intellectual engagement, emotional impact, and cultural importance. Filmmakers elevate cinematic experiences by incorporating philosophical principles into their work, encouraging deep thinking, introspection, and conversation that extends beyond the end of the film.

Embracing narrative ambiguity in filmmaking necessitates surrendering control and having faith in the audience's capacity to actively participate in the story. Filmmakers can create narratives that are deep, realistic and thought-provoking by allowing room for interpretation and encouraging viewers to participate in creating meaning. This approach invites audiences to delve into the complexities of the human mind and the enigmas of existence.

Filmmakers can delve into philosophical issues by discussing ideas within the film itself via character conversation, voiceover narration, or visual metaphor, which is crucial to the tale. Filmmakers incorporate philosophical discussions into the storyline to encourage viewers to interact with the concepts, leading to contemplation, self-examination, and a desire for knowledge. The significance of broader philosophical ideas in cinema is their capacity to transcend the medium beyond simply amusement and turn it into a platform for intellectual inquiry, emotional impact, and cultural discussion. Filmmakers produce cinematic experiences which test, motivate, and provoke audiences by incorporating philosophical concepts and discussing them on screen. This fosters a deeper knowledge of the human condition and the intricacies of existence.

Filmmaking's philosophical concepts carry broader implications than just entertainment: they shape cultural discourse, societal values, and individual perspectives. Indeed, these ideas infuse films with depth resonance and intellectual significance. They extend an invitation to audiences for a call for engagement not only with complex themes but also existential questions that transcend the screen's boundaries. The inclusion of philosophical notions in filmmaking yields far-reaching effects which influences cultural discourse, shapes societal ideals and ultimately constructs individual viewpoints. This impact surpasses the realm of mere entertainment, a testament to how deeply ingrained these concepts are within our cinematic narratives. Adding depth, meaning, and intellectual importance philosophical concepts enrich films where they engage viewers in exploring intricate topics and existential inquiries beyond the movie screen. Indeed, the presence of philosophical themes in filmmaking extends its impact past mere entertainment it shapes cultural discussion, society's ideals, even individual viewpoints. Films thereby acquire an enriched significance through these added layers does not just serve as a visual narrative but also deepening our understanding of life itself.

Cinema crucially relies on philosophical notions: they form the bedrock for crafting engaging narratives, thought-provoking themes and profound character development. From a broad spectrum of philosophical concepts, this allows them to delve into deep ideas, existential questions and universal concerns that resonate powerfully with viewers. By probing reality's nature, existence's meaning on ethical

dilemmas and human nature's complexities these philosophical tenets imbue films with depth relevance and intellectual worth. Filmmakers, by integrating philosophical themes into their work, can transcend the limitations of genre and narrative norms; this promotes innovation, originality and fosters a potent form of artistic expression. They leverage existential issues such as identity and free choice. The search for meaning in their films to provoke not just introspection but also empathy among audience which sparking dialogue is an inevitable result.

Additionally, the ability to articulate and debate philosophical concepts stands as a crucial tool for filmmakers: they utilize this skill in effectively portraying these ideas within their films. Through dialogue, visual imagery, symbolism and metaphor abstract philosophies are transformed into concrete narrative aspects that captivate viewers. Character dialogues can delve into intricate concepts and partake in philosophical discussions; meanwhile visual storytelling methods such as cinematography, production design, and editing communicate profound meanings while eliciting emotional reactions. Moreover, when filmmakers, writers, philosophers and scholars convey and debate philosophical concepts through filmmaking they cultivate cooperation and interdisciplinary communication. By discussing existential topics, ethical considerations and philosophical inquiries these dialogues not only enhance storytelling skills but also offer a profound insight into the human experience for those involved in cinema production. The worth of broader philosophical concepts within cinema lies not just as inspiration or challenge but as a provocation to audiences promoting intellectual engagement and emotional impact indeed fostering cultural significance. By incorporating philosophical principles into their work, filmmakers heighten cinematic experiences where they foster profound thought not simply during the film's duration, but also beyond its conclusion. Their efforts promote introspection and dialogue.

To embrace narrative ambiguity in filmmaking, one must surrender control and have faith in the audience's active story participation capacity. By allowing room for interpretation, even encouraging viewers to create meaning, filmmakers can construct thought-provoking narratives that are deep and realistic. This approach beckons audiences into exploring both complexities: those borne of the human mind, as well as existence's enigmas.

By discussing ideas within the film itself either through character conversation, voiceover narration or visual metaphor: these are all crucial to the tale; filmmakers can delve into philosophical issues. They intentionally weave such discussions into their storyline with a purpose that of inciting viewers' interaction with these concepts. This approach not only leads to contemplation and self-examination but also fosters an innate desire for knowledge amongst its audience members. The broader philosophical ideas injected in cinema bear significance that extends far beyond mere amusement: they transform it into a platform where intellectual inquiry, emotional impact and cultural discussion can flourish. Incorporating and discussing philosophical concepts on screen, filmmakers produce cinematic experiences that actively test, motivate, and provoke audiences; this process fosters a deeper understanding of the human condition where it is an exploration into existence's intricacies.

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