

Date 10 / 28 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle GravityAuthor / Director / Alfonso Cuaron

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I found *Gravity* on the Fandango app when searching for a movie to do for a movie log. I heard that the movie was actually amazing, so I decided to go see it for myself at Century Stadium 14 on Ethan Way.

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

Gravity is about a medical engineer, Dr. Ryan Stone, and a veteran astronaut, Matt Kowalski, who are on a mission to service the Hubble Space Telescope. While on duty, they are warned of a cloud of space debris traveling at an insanely fast speed, and they are told to abort their mission. Meanwhile, they lose connection with Mission Control, and they both are set adrift into the blackness of outer space by the debris. Kowalski eventually tethers Stone to him, and they make their way to the ISS. Upon arrival, Stone gets entangled in an already deployed parachute cable, and the two hang on for dear life. This is a key scene, in which Kowalski tells Stone that she has "to learn to let go," and Kowalski untethers himself so that Stone does not drift away with him. This message sustains her for the rest of her struggle for survival, until she eventually reaches earth and sees land for the first in a long time.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

Gravity essentially follows the theme of a quest and a perilous journey, in this case, a quest for survival and especially for a new beginning. Dr. Ryan Stone had nothing to live for when she came to outer space. Her child died in such a tragic and seemingly insignificant and unfair way, and all she practically did in her everyday life was drive and work. She has no friends or family that actually care about her, or at least that is implied when she claims that no one would be there to mourn for her death. Outer space was an escape from all her problems and troubles on earth, and she much rather would have either stayed there forever or otherwise died. Nevertheless, Matt Kowalski reminds her of the importance of life, and the line he says before he gets set adrift ("You have to learn to let go") is symbolic for the depression and all the fears and pressures that overtake Stone's life on earth. From that point on, she gains a greater understanding of herself and where her life is headed. She becomes an entirely new person as she enters earth again, and her struggles have prepared her to face any adversity that may come her way.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

Dr. Stone starts out the movie in a secluded and depressed bubble, in which her life is seemingly worthless and she has barely any connections with other human beings. Outer space represents this distance from others and relationships and life in general. Rebirth and a new beginning are also big in *Gravity*, and they are evident in various symbols. While in the airlock of one of the space crafts, Dr. Stone goes into a fetal position with an umbilical cord floating behind her. Here, she is starting anew with a more positive outlook and intention. Next, when she returns to Earth, she falls into a shallow pond, and a frog swims by. She swims up and out of the pond, while still lying down when she reaches land. Slowly, she crawls on all fours, and then she stands up like a human. This, in short, was the evolution of life, and it was again a reference to her new beginning.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Gravity was probably the best movie I have ever seen in my entire life. Although that sounds like an exaggeration, I was truly encapsulated by the wonderful animation and for the most part realistic portrayal of outer space combined with a true storyline. Many movies either have just cool effects or just a very interesting plot; however, this movie definitely had both. The exquisite camerawork, animation, and even acting, made it feel as if I too was in space, floating rather than sitting in a movie theater chair. Moreover, the plot, though very simple and refined, was emotional and touching. I experienced great depression and sadness from Dr. Stone's story, especially at the point when she was resorting to suicide to heal her problems. Even more, I am still affected and unsettled today by her mere standing up on land at the end of the movie. The empathy I felt towards her left me significantly hoping that she would continue to live on and that she would make it home safely, though the movie does not explain how/if her life continued. The theme of revival evident in the movie somewhat relates to Arthur's revival of England in *The Once and Future King*. Rather than a new beginning for a human person, this book shows an attempt at a new beginning and a positive change to an entire society. Life is difficult, and it may not always be pleasant at times. Rebirth is as much needed for societies every once in a while as it is for humans. Humans need pushes to keep on moving through life, and such instances of revival are indeed poetic. These instances renew in humans a desire to live as well as an understanding of the value and importance of human life. They give humans hope for the future, and they motivate them to live their lives to the fullest potential while they still have the chance. The solitude and tranquility of outer space is just as poetic. Out there, free from the restraints of the world, a person can exist without the problems and troubles that humans evoke. It is almost an unreal and amazing escape from the dangers of reality, and that is what makes it poetic. I would most definitely see *Gravity* again and perhaps even a third time, as I was so deeply moved by it.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)