

Mr. Snead

Film as Literature 2

8 April 2022

*Parasite* (2019) Post-Viewing Journal

*Parasite* offered a different perspective. A usual narrative that you can find in American films revolves around an underdog making their way to the top, instead, *Parasite* shows the reality of living in poverty and how one will always be able to entirely escape it no matter how much they try. The film artistically showed the ends of the social classes: poverty to the endlessly wealthy. Though most of the film was done entirely by set design it reflects a common picture of what South Korea has to offer. The architecture in which the poor family lives is claustrophobic and provides little to no space everywhere you go compared to the wealthy family where space is abundant. This film deserves more than one viewing. From the set design to the shot composition and direction, *Parasite* shows filmmaking and storytelling working together to make something so deep and compelling. Another reason this might've gotten so recognized in America is that it's an uncommon storyline or one that is not as popular. In Asia, there are many films whose story is quite similar, criticizing the society that we live in and its social classes. The mirror that this film provided to society is overlooked. The gritty is shown through the heart and desperation of each character. Ki-taek is shown through his effort to please Dong-ik as well as taking their criticism without showing pain. Throughout the film, he gets red, sweaty, and most notably smelly. In the end, we could see that no matter how far they try to run away from poverty it will always catch up to them and that is shown by the smell of their semi-basement. Flawed characters in new films made in Hollywood are greatly exaggerated to a point that it becomes a superpower or it's a flaw that isn't very relatable. The recognition of Asian filmmakers is much deserved. The structure of this film can be seen

everywhere in the subtle divide between the poor and the rich. Such as a scene with a divide with the fridge or a window. It has a personality that shows the reality of the society we tend to ignore. The scene in which the automatic lights are actually by (the person in the basement) shows that without the lower class the upper class wouldn't exist but they are easily forgotten by the people who "helped" them. Overall the film is so ugly and beautiful, that's what makes it attractive.