**12 Weird Disney Movie Symbols You Probably Missed** by [**Katie Metcalfe**](https://www.babygaga.com/author/katie_metcalfe/)



Directions: Both Honors and Regular classes are reading the same article…it is just that good! Honors only read and annotate the black (first 2 pages) Regular read and annotate the purple font (last 2 pages) .

Since the release of Disney's groundbreaking full length animation, Snow White And The Seven Dwarves in 1937 the film studio has maintained a solid grip on the imaginations of every generation.

And there's a simple explanation as to why the world has remained captivated for 80 years - because Disney offers astoundingly beautiful, unforgettably magical accounts of timeless stories, stories which once we're experienced, stay with us forever.

Who, for example, could fail to remember the miraculous moment Pinocchio is turned into 'a real boy?' Or when Cinderella is transformed for the ball? Or when Snow White is kissed awake by the prince?

But there are little things which can escape even the keenest Disney obsessed eye. Symbols woven into the scripts which strengthen the films, adding depth and fascinating meanings.

Take, for instance, the red gem which captivates the outrageously adorable 'hairy little thief' that is Aladdin's pet monkey Abu. The colour red in this instance symbolizes evil. In this article, we explore and explain 12 symbols you may well have missed while watching your Disney favorites. Read on so you can make your kids eyes wide with wonder when you sprout out insightful details about their favourite characters!

While I do not shout it from the rooftops, I have forever had an infatuation with the dresses the Disney princesses wear. One of the things that's captivated me - along with the poofiness of most of the skirts and the GORGEOUS bodices - is the colours the princesses wear. The artists working at Disney have a magical way with colour symbolism, and use it to their best advantage, for colour can send a mightily strong message.

At the moment I'm all over the lavender dress which Rapunzel wears for 99% of the film Tangled. Lavender denotes her royal heritage - in Disney, purple usually signifies evil or royalty.

Fascinatingly, in ancient times it was forbidden for anyone who wasn't rich or of royal blood to use purple dye. Purple is used by several other Disney princesses, though Rapunzel is one of the only princesses who doesn't wear any blue.

I am besotted with Pocahontas. Not only was it one of my favourite Disney films - I admire the message of promoting acceptance between the culture of the white man and the Indian - but Pocahontas is, I think of the strongest most beautiful and most courageous of all the Disney princesses.

While it's been a fair while since I've sat down in front of the movie, I can still remember Grandmother Willow, the weeping willow tree and spiritual adviser to our heroine. Do you remember that the magical tree also offered guidance to Pocahontas' mother?

Grandmother Willow is ancient, exceptionally wise, and at times, uber sassy character, and, being a willow tree, there are many different animals living between her branches. When we look at willow tree symbolism in Native American culture, we find that it includes magic, healing, inner vision and dreams - all of the things Grandmother Willow assists Pocahontas with.

Merida is another favourite princess. Why? Because she doesn't fit the stereotype. Because she's stubborn and courageous and headstrong, daring, rebellious and brave. Because she reminds me a lot of myself.

Her attitude, style and long, curly red hair - the creators made it so the hair was what you would look at most - make it all but impossible to not fall in love with Merida. She's a bad ass princes who makes for the best kind of heroine figure for little girls today.

Now, one thing about Merida that you can't fail to notice is, of course, that understated yet gorgeous traditional dress that she wears for much of the film. The green-blue (teal) colour symbolizes Merida's desire to have her freedom, and not have her life limited by her princess status.

I went to the cinema to see The Lion King in 1994. To this day it remains one of the greatest movie experiences e*ver.*Seriously, I don't think anything can really top The Lion King. It had the perfect balance of everything you could want from a movie...and it's packed with symbolism!

One of the symbols which was there all the ways through was the colour of the lion prides. You might remember the evil Scar's sleek, oily looking mane - who could forget that bastard! - was coloured black, whereas the great and kind Mufasa's humongous, beautifully conditioned mane was a calm auburn colour.

The colours were chosen specifically to represent light and dark, good and evil. Another aspect of Scar which symbolizes evil is his black claw. Different to any other lion in the film, he always has them bared instead of retracting them when they're not in use.

While it has appropriate moments of terror, Beauty & The Beast is a film that is absolutely crowded with lovable characters, including the enchanted candelabra Lumière - 'the Casanova of all candelabras.' (Lumière, by the way, means 'light' in French.)

You might remember Lumière best because he is one of the few characters to actually speak with a French accent! He is also super expressive, ridiculously charming and so bloody hilarious!

But he's not a candelabra for no reason...and the flames of his candles aren't just there to provide a comforting source of light. They actually symbolize hope. When Belle initially runs away from the castle, she slams the doors and extinguishes the flames, thus extinguishing the hope for the enchantment that has been set over The Beast and his servants to come to an end**.**

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There was something especially creepy about the spinning wheel in Sleeping Beauty. That ominous green glow surrounded it really did work a treat in unsettling little me. And the scene with the dragon fight? You don't come away from that unaffected!

The role of the spinning wheel in the 1959 movie is to put its victim - in this instance Princess Aurora - into an Eternal Sleep that can only be reversed by True Love's Kiss.

The spinning wheel symbolizes a number of things, including Aurora's approach to maturity, the unstoppable rotation of life and creation - for what does a spinning wheel do? It creates yarn and can make string into cloth! It also works to symbolize the 'spinning of a spell,' which translates to placing a curse on someone.

Am I the only one who thinks that Jasmine was perhaps that *little bit* too sexy in this movie? My sexual knowledge was extremely limited when I first watched Aladdin, so back then it didn't really have an impact, but now I'm thinking 'Holy hell, she really has always been outrageously voluptuous and sexy.' I've also discovered folks, that it's entirely possible to be envious of a cartoon character.

While her all blue ensemble was titillating - especially on her remarkable hourglass figure - it was actually the red outfit which Jafar made her wear that oozed with sexuality and made me feel slightly uncomfortable. The red of the outfit was used to represent heat and evil, whereas the blue of the outfit Jasmine wore when not under Jafar's control symbolized water and goodness.

Of all the villains in the Disney franchise, Ursula from The Little Mermaid is one of my favorites. This underwater sea witch is just so *perfectly*horrible, and her octopus form is just the right amount of creepy! It comes as no surprise to me that she's considered one of the most iconic Disney villains to date. Interestingly, she wasn't originally designed to be an octopus!

As I mentioned in the previous post about Rapunzel, purple tends to denote two things in Disney movies - royalty and evil. In this instance, of course, it's evil! You might recall that Ursula is all about purple...her skin is tinted lavender and the underside of her tentacles - the suckers - are a deep purple colour**.** Ursula is also never seen without her makeup and purple shell accessories.

 I have a real love/hate relationship with Peter Pan, but I find the character of the crocodile - who went onto to be named Tick Tock - fascinating and simultaneously scary. I mean, who isn't afraid of the idea of a crocodile just waiting for you to make a wrong move?

From what I have been able to discover, the crocodile - with the clock in his belly - actually represents time, or more specifically, how time is running out. 'The clock will run down and he will get you.' Yep, can't get much scarier than that, can you really.

Captain Hook interprets this too, as you might remember he is deathly afraid of the hungry reptile. It's also possible to look at the crocodile as a symbol of fate as well as time.

One of the strongest, most significant symbols from a Disney movie in recent years, you know, a symbol that could truly make an impact on the lives of both children and adults is, in my humble opinion, Elsa's gloves.

In Disney's film Frozen, Princess Elsa is made to wear gloves when she is a little girl, to hide her powers and conceal her true nature - she's dangerous but she's also creative and awe inspiring.

The removal of Elsa's gloves is said to symbolize her coming of age, her freedom, the chance to be herself**.** (It's also been suggested that it might be her 'coming out' as a gay woman.) It's when she's singing 'Let It Go' that she unburdens herself of her last remaining glove. She doesn't wear them again for the duration of the movie.

One of the most jaw dropping movies Disney has put out into the world, Fantasia which was released in - and I can't really believe it was this long ago - 1940. There are too many symbols in this movie to mention them all, so we'll stick with talking about one of the best - the broom!

I didn't know this before now, but the broom we see in the movie represents women's roles in 1940's America. Next time you're watching, pay careful attentionto the shadowof the broom which has the silhouette of a woman, complete with a curved waistline**!**

When Mickey 'kills' the broom, it duplicates into hundreds more and they are unstoppable. This is said to possibly symbolize the women of the 1940's unwilling to give up their new found freedom.