

PLEASANTVILLE

Historical Allusions

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Claim: The beauty of life lies in its unpredictability, and we as humans must be able to recognize, deal with, and accept that unpredictability and change.



The Feminist Revolution

- Instances in the film:

- > “Honey, I’m home.”
- > Roy’s iron mark
- > Betty’s refusal



- Significance

- > Move outside of “traditional spheres”
- > Threatened the beliefs of many men and some women of the time
- > People must be able to look at change in a positive light

Civil Rights Movement

- ◉ Instances in the film:
 - > “No Coloreds”
 - > Segregation within the court house
 - > Whitey’s criticism of Bud’s “colored” girlfriend



- Significance:
 - Counter-Movement
 - Inability of many people to adjust to change

Nazism

Instances:

- > Shattering of store window—
Kristallnacht
- > Burning of books
- > Propaganda
- > Pleasant society



Significance:

- > Escalation within Pleasantville
- > Extreme inability to deal with differences
- > Actions taken to eliminate those differences.

Progression

The Feminist
Revolution

The Civil
Rights
Movement

Nazism

ESCALATION



CAUSE
&
EFFECT



Claim

The beauty of life lies in its unpredictability, and we as humans must be able to recognize, deal with, and accept that unpredictability and change.

Each allusion demonstrates a change or resistance to change within society that helps to unveil the claim of the film and the importance of learning to accept change.

- > The Feminist Revolution – change
- > Civil Rights Movement – Reaction
- > Nazism - Resistance



Perfection



- Pleasantville is a utopian-like community that strives for perfection. What does this entail?
 - > Everyone has their place
 - > Predictability
- Connection to historical allusions
 - > Challenge the status quo
 - > Counter-movements