

Gump notes essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

t's qualitative impairments in social interaction include gross impairment in ability to develop peer relationships appropriate to developmental level (He says " When I was little, mama kep me inside a lot, so as the other kids wouldn't bother me"), and it does not seem likely that he was motivated to share enjoyment, interests or achievements with other people at least at ages of primary school.

His impairments in communication include a delay in the development of spoken language and marked impairment in the ability to sustain a conversation with others, and some of which are unchanged throughout his life (" I ain't too good at long conversation"). His famous line or " I got to pee" can be evaluated as a stereotyped and idiosyncratic use of language. His behavioral problems maybe include an inflexible adherence to routines or plans and a lack of comprehensive grasp of objects. He has these problems described above with onset prior to age 3 years his disturbance is not accounted for by childhood disintegrative disorder (characterized by loss of previously acquired skills).

In result, a total of six items could be confirmed and his childhood characteristics fulfill DSM-IV criteria for autistic disorder. In addition, all his natures including these items are frequently observed in individuals with autistic disorder. These features include innocence, frankness, generosity, credulity, excellent rote memory, and a talent for music, as well as an escape tendency from his favorites. The dissociation between his apparent IQ and incredible intellectual achievements and his behavioral autistic tendencies are, so far, ignored and his cognitive features are misread as Intellectual Developmental disability. In the movie, Forest Gump, the

character played by Tom Hanks finds remarkable inner strength to overcome life's never ending problems and tragedies.

In spite of limited abilities, Forrest conquers every obstacle life throws at him and becomes a success. "The world will never be the same once you've seen it through the eyes of... Forrest Gump: a film chronicling the life of a mentally challenged man present during three of the most distinctive and dynamic decades in American history. While on the surface lies a heartwarming and inspirational story, the underlying narrative tends to explore progression of American society while depoliticizing history.

Throughout the film Forrest is directly involved in major events of the 60s, 70s, and 80s, yet he never shows any initiative of his own. What is the filmmaker trying to insinuate? An understanding of Forrest's background is an important and characterizing element in the film. Disadvantaged by a terrible spine condition and a low IQ, Forrest struggles through childhood in small-minded Greenbow, Alabama. Due to his mental disabilities, Forrest becomes the victim of academic discrimination, which his mother fights desperately to resolve. "He might be a bit on the slow side, but my boy Forrest is going to get the same opportunities as everyone else," she stated to the principal of Greenbow County Central School.

"He's not going to some special school to learn to how to re-tread tires." (Gump 1995) Forrest's mother was determined. Taking advantage of this, the principal coerced Forrest's mother into trading a sexual favor for enrollment in school. In addition to these unsettling events, Forrest finds

himself tormented and isolated by neighborhood children and townspeople who seem incapable of treating him with anything but reproach and disdain.

Forrest was also an active part of many important events, including protests lead by George Wallace against desegregation, the Vietnam War, the Ping Pong Diplomacy period, anti-war activism lead by Abbie Hoffman, Black Panther Party meetings, and the Watergate scandal. It would be reasonable to say that being part of such important events and would make him vulnerable to the social forces of the times, yet his lack of critical thought as a result of low intelligence seemed to indicate the complete opposite- he remained wholly oblivious and ignorant of their significance. During George Wallace's "Stand in the Schoolhouse Door" protest, Forrest stands curiously in the background, more interested in his surroundings rather than the actual protest. During the Vietnam War, Forrest never questions the morality or the agenda of the U. S. government, and receives the Congressional Medal of Honor for his efforts.

His entire experience during the Vietnam War can be summed up into one conversation between him and the Drill Sergeant: "Gump! What's your sole purpose in this Army?" "To do whatever you tell me, Drill Sergeant!" (Gump 1995) Still, the most dismaying portion of impassive responses glorified in this film can be contributed to Forrest's careless involvement in the anti-Vietnam War rally lead by Abbie Hoffman. He was entirely clueless as to the purpose of the anti-war movements. His view of Abbie Hoffman's role? "There was this man, giving a little talk..."

And every time he said the “ F” word, people, for some reason, well, they’d cheer. ” Though the focus of the film is directed towards Forrest Gump, the effects of social forces are most often expressed and implied through Jenny Curran. Forrest’s generally unobservant nature contrasts harshly with Jenny’s forthright and independent character. Without Jenny, we would have a collectively unrealistic and uncertain portrayal of many occurrences that contributed to the structure of today’s society.

Unlike Forrest, Jenny was consciously and intentionally involved in the counterculture movements of the 60’s, as she is seen trailing the countryside with fellow “ hippies,” participating in anti-war movements, and secretly involving herself in Black Panther Party meetings. Before Jenny sets off on what turns out to be downward spiral towards debasement, she speaks to Forrest of her motives. “..

. I want to reach people on a personal level. I want to be able to say things, just one-to-one. (Gump 1995) However, Jenny’s plans for a better society are brought to a staggering halt when Jenny develops a fatal disease stemming from precarious drug use.

Conclusion Although Tom Hanks (Star in Forrest Gump) affirms that the film was “ non-political and thus non-judgmental,” the previous examples show implications otherwise. Though the film does take a stand against disability discrimination by shedding some light on the difficulties that accompany being handicap during a callous time in American history, it’s motives were generally ambiguous and unclear. Based on the filmmakers unattractive outlook on counterculturalism, his lack of discretion when touching on issues

like desegregation and independence, as well as his insensitive approach to the deaths of activists, we can arrive at the following conclusion: the harrowing experiences exposed in this film can be easily discarded as something warranted only by devoted individuals who attempt to foster humanity. yearning for the positive outcome and his ability to defy the failures by his willingness to persist and try harder. Forrest Gump could do what he loved to do without analyzing the finest details of his actions.

His actions were dictated by his passion. Forrest Gump spent days learning how to catch shrimp. He caught boots and license plates instead of shrimp but that didn't shake his determination. His endless pursuit eventually made him a fortune with his shrimp empire The movie starts with a feather floating down from high in the sky and landing at the feet of a young man. He picks it up, looks at it oddly, and carefully places it in a children's illustrated book in his neatly arranged suitcase.

Having completed the task at hand, he stares ahead rather vacantly and unfocussed, sitting ramrod straight on a bus stop bench. A poster on the side of a passing bus advertises a car for 1981. When a woman sits next to him, he is friendly, volunteering his name, Forrest Gump, and offering her a chocolate from a box. In a modern urban setting, this is unusual, even suspect, behavior. The woman shakes her head and tries to ignore him.

Forrest keeps talking; his speech is slow and mild-mannered. He relates his mother's maxims about how a box of chocolates is like life, and what shoes reveal about people. Then he starts reminiscing about his first pair of shoes. The woman cannot help but stare at this phenomenon and listen. Hornstein

(1994) talks about her son, who behaves like Forrest at the bus stop: My son Joel is 20 years old and has autism along with several developmental disabilities.

As with Forrest Gump, a conversation with my son resembles a script from “The Twilight Zone.” Joel speaks more in echoed phrases he’s heard elsewhere than in self-initiated sentences. It is not uncommon for Joel to meet someone, give his name, shake his hand and then tell the poor, unprepared soul that “a mind is a terrible thing to waste.” And yes, he always gives the 800 number to encourage you to respond charitably to this and many other public service announcements which he memorizes. Is Joel intoning some deeply felt, altruistic

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KLINGERstatement meant to change the face of the world? No, this is just his way of using existing phrases in order to participate in that baffling exercise called conversation. The question is often asked in the film, “is Forrest stupid or something?” Demb(1997) suggests that Forrest probably has “pervasive developmental disorder and certainly not mental retardation.

” Demb bases the diagnosis on Forrest’s “social skills deficits,” “perseverative tendencies” like running across the country four times, “a tendency to initiate conversations with total strangers and repetitively use, in a somewhat rehearsed fashion, a phrase from his past,” and his “odd vocal quality, with precise and formal intonation. Demb notes Forrest’s “excellent gross motor skills and eye-hand coordination,” and Hyman(1997) agrees that Forrest has “too much ability.” Hyman considers Forrest’s “early language delays,” and decides that Forrest, in today’s society, “would

not be classified as having mental retardation; instead, “borderline or dull-normal would be more appropriate.” The 1986 novel by Winston Groom (born 1944), on which the film is based, opens with Forrest’s words, “Let me say this: Bein’ a idiot is no box of chocolates.

Greenbaum(1996) contends that the phrase from the novel is “much less charming but far more realistic” than the film’s bon mot about bonbons, as people with mental retardation in reality have low prospects for financial success or happiness in love, quite unlike Forrest’s experience. Greenbaum also remarks that “no one with Forrest’s IQ would be labeled ‘a idiot’ today. The term is offensive and outdated.” Besides his intellectual handicap, Forrest as a child in the mid-1950s also has a physical disability. He wears braces on his legs to help correct a spine “as crooked as a politician. The braces bring to mind the viral disease, polio, which for decades had paralyzed, confined to iron lung machines, and crippled tens of thousands of people, children disproportionately so.

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882–1945, President 1933–1945)’s legs were almost totally paralyzed by polio. In the decade following World War II, at least twenty thousand cases were reported annually; in 1952, polio reached its destructive peak with fifty-eight thousand new diagnoses. ... So many of those who had “recovered” from polio were left with twisted backs, withered limbs, bodies that no longer could run and play. Polio epidemics were second only to the atomic bomb in surveys of what Americans feared most (Pomerantz 1999). The monumental victory over polio by Dr.

Jonas Salk (1914–1995)'s polio vaccine in 1955 coincides with the time Forrest threw off his leg braces. The film plays “with boundaries of fiction and history” (Grainge 2003: 208). Much of the humor in the film comes from seeing Forrest repeatedly wander and stumble into well-known scenes from history, like a feather “buffeted by the winds of postwar America”

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Themes of Tolerance & Equality 3 (Guinti 1996), and unwittingly affect the course of events. Sometimes the subject of humor is Forrest being “a bit on the slow side” and his awkward social skills. We are meant to laugh when Forrest understands everything people say literally, as when he meets Presidents Kennedy and Johnson.

Guinti (1996) remarks, There is a weird dissonance between Forrest's wide-eyed narration and Zemeckis's knowing direction. In a number of witty quick-cut montage sequences that accompany Forrest's simple-minded voice-over, part of the joke is that Forrest doesn't get what's going on. Thus the audience is actually put in the position of laughing at its hero's ignorance. For the most part, however, Forrest's disability is treated sympathetically, and Forrest himself is a compassionate person. Forrest himself has been the target of name-calling and physical attack, so he understands how it feels to be a victim.

Boys throw rocks at young Forrest and taunt him, and again in high school they chase him in their truck, the camera showing a close-up of a Confederate flag bumper sticker. Lieutenant Dan gets angry with Cunningham Carla and Long-Limbs Lenore when they ask him, “Is your friend stupid or something?” He says, “Don't you ever call him stupid,” and the girls call Dan

a number of derogatory terms regarding his own physical disability. Forrest understands what is happening here very well: “ He didn’t want to be called crippled like I didn’t want to be called stupid. ” One of the clear messages of the film is that no one deserves to be victimized, and that all people deserve respect and an equal chance in life. The first thing we hear Mrs.

Gump tell her son is, “ Don’t ever let anybody tell you they’re better than you, Forrest. If God wanted everybody to be the same, he’d have given us all braces on our legs. ” In the context of the themes of this film, “ white skin” and “ high intelligence” could be substituted for “ braces on our legs. ” Mrs.

Gump also insists that Forrest should have “ the same opportunities as everybody else. ” Jenny’s repeated victim relationships with men are also presented sympathetically In the movie, Forrest is digitally inserted between Wallace and Graham, looking at them intently, trying to understand what they are talking about. (A security guard is also blue-screened into the scene, looking at Forrest. When he notices that Vivian Malone has dropped a book (digitally added to the historical footage), he runs to pick it up, and runs after her, calling, “ Ma’am, you dropped your book. Ma’am! ” He gives a little wave to the crowd and the camera, and runs after her into the schoolhouse. Forrest’s football coaches are surprised to see him on the TV news apparently supporting the struggle for racial equality.

However, doing that would require a conscious understanding of what is happening, so the coaches can’t believe it was really Forrest. Giunti (1996) notes that what Forrest did “ is certainly an act of kindness, but hardly an act of moral courage. ” 15The main reason for this scene in the film is, I believe,

to provide the viewers the pleasure of seeing Forrest surrealistically interact with yet another well-known scene of American history. Some viewers may laugh at Forrest's lack of understanding about what is happening. There is also a message delivered here, that Forrest is bigoted towards none and polite to all, and that that is an admirable way to behave. As Forrest looks around at the men in his platoon, of whom a large number are black men, he says, " I don't know much about anything, but I think some of America's best young men served in this war.

" 18Bubba becomes his " best good friend," and Bubba remarks on their good relationship, " we be watching out for one another, like brothers and stuff. " Forrest runs repeatedly into the battle zone to try and rescue Bubba. Lavery (1997: 21) remarks on this " Southern-stereotype-defying friendship with an African-American. " The movie one more time presents a rather long political speech, referring again to black rights, and to the Vietnam Conflict.

9Jenny brings Forrest to a Black Panther Party Quite ironically, given their reputation for endorsing the use of violence, it is the Panthers who tell the usually placid Forrest to leave. He apologizes for having " a fight in the middle of your Black Panther party," confusing two meanings of " party Forrest's Gump's character can easily be referred to as stupid. Forrest tries to understand the world around him but struggles to apprehend it. Forrest's mother wants Forrest to have the best of everything whether it be, Health, fitness or education.

Forrest sadly struggles to keep up with the demand. We know little about Forrest father he may have died in the war or he may have left the family,

we don't know and nor does Forrest. The Film begins with a simple feather floating down and eventually we see Forrest waiting at a bus stop. This is present day, as the film tells Forrest Gump's life story from his point of view.

Forrest tells his story to a few people waiting for the bus to turn up. We start his story seeing Forrest as a child. We learn about his mothers high expectations of him. Forrest is a quiet character, who in the beginning is lonely except for his mother and “ Jenny” Forrest is alone. Forrest has strong emotions for Jenny, after all Jenny has been Forrest's only friend since he was a child. Forrest is different from most children however; as his mother insisted that, he has braces on his legs, so Forrest is often bullied in and out of school.

As Forrest grows up his strong emotions for Jenny grow but the presence of constant bullying somewhat creates a rift between them. Forrest knows little about Jenny's life at home and the hardship it entails. Little does Forrest know that Jenny has a dreadful life at home. One day when Forrest goes round Jenny's house, he discovers what her life is really like along with the truth about her father who beats Jenny up. Forrest cannot understand why it is happening and becomes anxious and worried for Jenny and her welfare.

At that point, we jump forward in time to see Forrest in his college years. Notice that each introduction to a different setting is accompanied by an old news bulletin. Once again, we see Forrest bullied, based on his original bullying scene with a few students in a truck chasing Forrest down the road. Jenny shouts to Forrest a familiar line- “ Run Forrest Run! Forrest runs and out runs the truck! Noticeable differences this time around is that firstly, the

music is different with a 'Cow-boy' like tune whereas before it was dramatic music as Forrest escapes his leg braces. Secondly, Forrest does not run home but runs across a Rugby field where a whole bunch of people watch Forrest run over at super speed, captain of the rugby squad is amazed and invites Forrest to the team.

Forrest would never have guessed that he would be on a rugby squad, some people may call it destiny, but Forrest's situation is more related to fate or chance. The difference between fate and destiny is that destiny is something you expect to happen whereas fate is doing something or becoming something without even expecting to do or be that. It is a very complicated thing to grasp, but Forrest did not expect to be in the rugby squad but fate intervened when he ran over the field and made him a rugby star. As we see later on in the film there are a lot more coincidences relating to fate in Forrest's life.

Forrest only knows one rule of rugby and that is to run. The next major scene is when Forrest finds Jenny being abused by someone else. Out of desperation on Forrest's behalf, he intervenes and beats up the offender while Jenny tells him to stop. Jenny explains to Forrest that he does not understand the true meaning of Love and she leaves him confused and very upset. Forrest cannot comprehend Jenny's words and the ever-growing rift between them is even more evident.

Soon after Forrest earns a rugby trophy and moved on to join the army where he meets Bubba an expert shrimper on the bus. The bus scene is played out with pouring rain in the background and presented like the scene

where it is Forrest's first day at school with people shouting that Forrest cannot sit with them because the seat is 'taken'. Bubba is presented in a similar way as Jenny first was on the bus except he obviously is not a girl. But we see Bubba and Forrest build up a strong formidable companionship. During his army training Forrest takes all his orders very seriously and carries out his orders swiftly, whereas other army recruits are more relaxed.

This is partly due to Forrest's strict upbringing, when Forrest does finally go into the field, he still remains calm. The war scenes are set in the rain, in fact it remains raining for months. Forrest makes use of his time by writing letters to Jenny everyday. One day however the rain at long last stops and as a sense of relief spreads over the recruits gun shots are heard and the recruits including Forrest are engaged in battle. The troops are forced in the frantic conditions to split up, Forrest remains with Lt. Dan who knows the mission is fruitless insists that Forrest leaves the battle field to save his own skin but Forrest will not leave Lt.

Dan to die and out of compassion Forrest carries the legless Lt. Dan to safety as he rattles on that it's his 'destiny' to die in the battlefield. Forrest is still determined to save his friend Bubba but each time Forrest finds another recruit who needs rescuing. When Forrest eventually finds Bubba and carries him to safety Bubba is severely injured. However, Forrest does not want to admit that Bubba may die and is determined for him to stay alive, but alas, he dies in Forrest's arms with one last request for Forrest to continue his father's shrimping business, Forrest agrees. At this point we see a close up shot of Forrest's face expression and emotions, Bubba was his only best friend aside from Jenny and he has just lost Bubba.

Forrest can barely live with this tragedy but manages to bottle it up inside as he has done in the past. After the battle, Forrest lies in hospital next to the legless Lt. Dan, who once again explains to Forrest that it was his Destiny to die in the field as his ancestors did in past wars. Forrest is confused at first but as the story plays out, he begins to understand Lt Dan's point of view.

Later in the hospital a fellow patient introduces Forrest to a game of ping-pong, Forrest gets to grips with the game and later becomes an enthusiast in the hospital infact he even becomes a ping pong champion. Does this relate to anyway Lt. Dan's version of destiny? Not really, Forrest's situation is more based on fate because Forrest had no idea he would become a ping-pong champion at all let alone a ping-pong player. Destiny in Lt. Dan's case was to die and serve in the war, because Lt Dan wanted to achieve this, he could take steps to try and ensure that is supposed Destiny would take place which is the opposite of Forrest's ping pong situation. As the film, plays out we will see more situations based on fate.

The next scene relating to fate actually follows very quickly as Forrest is roped in by fate to come up on stage in front of hundreds maybe thousands of people to deliver a speech on the war conditions in Vietnam. Little does Forrest know that in the midst of the crowd is Jenny and when she hears Forrest she runs towards him, Forrest is thrilled to see her again. Forrest is very happy as the two quickly exchange their life stories so far, Forrest tells her about Bubba and Lt. Dan. Later on, Jenny decides to take Forrest to a club of which she is a member. However in the club Forrest sees a man grab Jenny, Forrest does not want to lose her again he decides to start a fight with

the man Jenny immediately pulls Forrest back where they engage in brief conversation where exclaims that the man should not have touched Jenny while Jenny has the daunting task of telling Forrest that a lot of people touch her as part of her career.

Forrest based on strict but protective upbringing is both shocked and confused at the situation, which leaves Forrest upset as Jenny leaves his life once again. Forrest later meets up with Lt. Dan again where he is shocked to find out that the army gave Forrest the Medal of Honour to the service. As Forrest tells him about his Shrimping plans Lt.

Dan explains sarcastically that if Forrest becomes a shrimping boat captain he would be his first mate. Meanwhile Forrest's time in the army is over which in turn ends his ping-pong career leaving the path clear for shrimping. Little did Lt. Dan realise that he would have to live up to his promise when Forrest does become a Shrimp boat captain and Lt. Dan becomes his first mate.

At first the shrimping duo are extremely unsuccessful in the business as they fail to catch almost anything. However their luck was about to change because fate once again intervenes and a huge storm uproots the docks and destroys other shrimp boats, except for one a shrimp boat called Jenny manned by Forrest. Because of the storm Forrest's boat is the only boat left to catch shrimp and without competition there business was about to take off as hordes of shrimp come pouring in. Forrest becomes successful and very rich, but deep down Forrest could not care less about the money. Forrest gives money away to the community and Bubba's family.

I want to come back to the idea of fate once again, as I am reminded of a film called 'Being there' starring Peter Sellers as the character 'Chance'. Chance I believe is very similar to Forrest as his understanding of life is so very much related to 'Blissful Ignorance' (a lack of knowledge that is worthwhile not knowing.) But most of all the way Forrest and Chance are related to fate. This can best be explained with an example.

In the film, 'Being there' Chance has the rare opportunity to meet a Washington representative and the chance to voice his opinions when requested. Chance answered the representative question using the only knowledge he knew about gardening and nature. Chance has been brought up learning only how to look after a garden so everything he says is in some way related to gardening or TV. If Forrest was presented the same question he would answer it using some of his mother's best quotes most notably 'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get' However my main point is out of fate Chance's point of view made its way to national television where the president quoted Chance's words famously. Chance would never have anticipated anything he would have said would ever be read out on national TV by the President of the United States. There are so many examples of fate in both films, which makes the two very similar and the meaning of fate more apparent, and how it compares to Lt.

Dan's version of Destiny makes a very interesting topic. Coming back to Forrest Gump, Lt Dan talks to Forrest about the war and him rescuing him while he insisted not to be rescued in relation to his destiny. Lt. Dan after many years finally thanks Forrest for rescuing him before jumping off the

boat and swimming away. Forrest remains silent and watches Lt. Dan float away in silence.

Perhaps Forrest finally understands Lt Dan's idea of destiny, and respects that? Forrest's life was about to change again but not before having to cope with a huge tragedy. His mother has been taken ill and will die shortly. Forrest's mother explains how proud she is of him and reminds him one last time of her immortal words " Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. " Forrest's mother says it was her destiny to bring up Forrest, Forrest asks what his destiny is but he can only find out his destiny by himself and no one could tell him what is destiny is.

When she does die, Forrest bottles it up inside and moves on emotionally until one day when old memories are dug up.... Jenny arrives at Forrest's home in Alabama and Forrest is ever so happy to see her again. They exchange stories after she moves in and becomes a permanent figure of his life. They fit together like two peas in a pod or as Forrest would say " as peas and carrots again" come to think of it that's one of the things Chance would say from ' Being there'.

One day Forrest decides to propose to Jenny only to be let down. A bewildered Forrest struggles to learn and understand that Jenny is not ready for that kind of commitment and as one thing leads to another, they eventually end up in bed. Sadly, for Forrest Jenny thinks she has done wrong and decides to leave Forrest early in the morning. When Forrest finds out she has left him he does what he had always done with his emotions in life, bottled them up inside.

Except this time he decided to start running, he ran and ran to the coast and back again and when he reached another coast he decided to keep on going to the next. Forrest ran all over the state for 3 whole years! People soon heard about Forrest and decided to run with him to try to discover why he was running. Of course that is the question why was he running? Running was Forrest's way of 'letting off steam' after all everyone in the world is different some people when faced with life's hardships face it head on, shout it out to let it go. Some people however like in Forrest's case bottle it up inside. Forrest running those many miles was his way of letting it go and thinking about his life.

When Forrest stopped running, he had a fresh mind and knew what to do next. Forrest's telling of his life in the past is over now, as we meet him back in the present sitting down at the bus stop telling his story to an elderly woman. It would appear fate would intervene yet again as the old lady informs him that he doesn't need to catch a bus as Jenny's apartment is only a few blocks away all Forrest needs to do is walk there (of course he actually runs there...). Forrest thanks the lady before setting off, when he reaches the apartment he finds Jenny as a mother. Forrest asks Jenny what the boy's name is when she tells him his name is Forrest after his father. Jenny explains that he is Forrest's son, Forrest is taken back by the news and is in very high spirits.

But the happiness was yet to last long as Jenny informs Forrest she is fatally ill and the doctors could do nothing about it. Jenny would die. Forrest is upset and offers to look after Jenny but she has other plans as she asks Forrest to marry her, and of course Forrest agrees. Nothing seems to be right in

Forrest's life with Jenny, there is always misfortune involved in their relationship which is hard for Forrest to comprehend. The wedding day was as good as it could be set in a beautiful day; Forrest is greeted by an old friend Lt.

Dan after many years. Forrest is happier than ever he is married and a father. It is a shame that the cruel world would limit the happiness as Jenny soon dies to fast for Forrest to cope and he is reduced to tears at her grave, planted under the tree where they spent so much time of their childhood under. Forrest's emotions for Jenny finally come out as the music is sad and the wind brushes past Forrest almost silently. The audience is forced by the excellent direction to show remorse for Jenny. Forrest has a letter to give Jenny written by Forrest JR, but Forrest cannot read it so he leaves it by her grave.

Forrest is very proud for his son who is very bright; Forrest spends a lot of time with him teaching him Ping-pong and more. As the film closes to an end, we see Forrest's JR at the bus stop. As he waits for the school bus, we are reminded of Forrest's first school bus trip and the audience feels happy as we see how far Forrest has come in his life. The feather that lies beside Forrest up by the wind high up in the air where the camera pans out to see the beautiful landscape that Forrest grew up in. As the Music flares, the credits roll as we come to the end of Forrest's story.

Overall, after seeing this movie for about eight times already I can say that it really is a classic that will live on in my collection. I strongly recommend for people to see Forrest Gump on Video or the newly released DVD edition.

Fans also may like to know the Special extended edition of Forrest Gump is now available on DVD where you can find more special features than you can wave a stick at. Forrest Gump is a feel good movie for everyone's tastes. Go see it you will not be disappointed! Moreover, I find the way the film contrasts fate and destiny is outstanding.

The direction and presentation of Forrest throughout the story is spectacularly supported by Tom Hanks, which makes Forrest Gump one of the best films of all time. What's more there are parts of the film, which we ourselves can relate to, making Forrest Gump a personal film as its array of topics can often to peoples life experiences. Forrest Gump is a masterpiece that has already won six Oscars, Go see it! The film is narrated by Forest Gump as he sits waiting for a bus in the present. Speaking to anybody that will listen to him, Forest recalls his simple, but remarkable life. Starting with his childhood Forest narrates the audience through his adventures.

He informs us of his time playing football at the University of Alabama, his stint in the Vietnam War, his cross country run and his success with fishing for shrimp. All of these peculiar stories filter into the present and the last quarter of the movie is in real time. Forest goes to visit Jenny to find out that he has a son (Haley Joel-Osmant). Soon after finding out that he is a father Jenny dies and Forest has to mourn the death of the true love of his life. How it furthers the discussion of autism Bullying has and most likely always will be a huge problem with our youth. Early childhood memories of being teased or beaten up can have significant effects later in life.

While no child is safe from the kid who consistently seems to forget his lunch money and thinks it would be fun to see if punching you in the stomach produces change, autistic children seem to be in many cases the easiest of targets. This was clearly seen early in the movie. Have you ever heard the phrase “ Run Forest, Run,” of course you have, Jenny frantically uttered this memorable quote to Forest while three local bullies were throwing rocks at him. The movie makes no attempt to show how to stop bullying, but rather it brings it to the attention of the public.

Furthermore, the graphic and upsetting natures of that scene seem to evoke a great sense of empathy towards Forest and towards any other child who might be getting picked on, autistic or not. I truly, believe that the best way to try and dampen bullying is awareness of its horrible nature, something that this film does a great job of conveying. Many of you have probably heard of Temple Grandin, for those of you who have not she is one of if not the most respected member of the autistic community. She is an activist and an anthropological genius. Her work *Genius May Be an Abnormality: Educating Students with Asperger’s Syndrome, or High Functioning Autism*, discusses the different ways in which people can extract potential out of people on the higher end of the autistic spectrum.

While her paper was focused on higher functioning people she had one line which transcends all autistics and all people in general, “ I cannot emphasize enough the importance of developing a talent into an employable skill,” and this line of thinking could clearly be seen in Forest Gump. Forest’s greatest talents were running, playing ping-pong, being in the armed forces and shrimping. A rather comical interaction sums furthers this point, Drill

Sergeant: “ Gump! What’s your sole purpose in this army? ” Forrest Gump: “ To do whatever you tell me, drill sergeant! ” Drill Sergeant: “ God damn it, Gump! You’re a god damn genius! This is the most outstanding answer I have ever heard. You must have a goddamn I. Q.

of 160. You are goddamn gifted, Private Gump. Listen up, people...

” Forrest Gump: [narrates] Now for some reason I fit in the army like one of them round pegs. It’s not really hard. You just make your bed real neat and remember to stand up straight and always answer every question with “ Yes, drill sergeant. ” Drill Sergeant: “..

. Is that clear? ” Forrest Gump: “ Yes, drill sergeant! ” Forest may not have been the smartest person in the Army, but his skills fit perfectly into the army mentality. In their standards Forest may have really had a goddamn I. Q. of 160. Everybody is good at something, whether that be playing ping-pong, or rocket science, the key is to find a way to successfully implement your talents.

This not only holds true for the autistic community, but it is a sentiment that every living person should have. Conclusion If you are reading this it means that you stuck with me throughout my sub-par analysis of these fantastic movies, for which I thank you. While on the surface all of these movies are enjoyable the question still remains do these movies pigeonhole or progress the autistic community? When dealing with any subject that many people have a hard time accepting, I strongly believe that the best remedy is simple exposure, which in turns leads to education. Therefore, at the most artificial

level I would argue that since all of these movies were available at my local video store they are already serving a purpose.

Furthermore, the actors in all of these movies have prestigious careers. This is important because they are sending messages to their fans and to society that they find autism awareness to be important. And as we know there are only a select few people that can mobilize the masses with more effectiveness than Hollywood actors. The other side of the argument would contest that these movies promote stereotypes that the autistic community is actively trying to disprove. To this point I would argue the following.

It is clear that some of these movies are stereotypical, however in my estimation they disprove many more stereotypes than they enforce. And more importantly they further very important conversations that are being had amongst the autistic community. A second argument that I have heard from many people is the fact that all of these movies illuminate either high functioning characters on the autistic spectrum, or in the case of Forest Gump, a character that has lived a remarkable life. Many critics would complain that these movies set an unfair standard, one which many real life people on the autistic spectrum may not be able to reach.

I would respond to these critiques with a quote by Jasmine O'Neil, excised from her incredibly inept and inspirational book *Through the Eyes of Aliens: A Book about Autistic People*, " Each autistic individual is different from every other. Each has her or his own fears, joys; each gets excited by different self-stimulating activities (pg. 11). " The point being that many people tend to forget the individuality of autistics. Many people view the community as a

homogenous group, a group in which none of the “ individuals” have distinct personalities; therefore parents sometimes think that since their son is autistic he should be able to count by 82s a la Rainman.

In response to those mothers I would simply say this, “ I am not the reincarnation of Matt Damon in Good Will Hunting, but that does not mean I can’t be inspired by him. Simply, everybody wishes they could be their favorite movie character, but they can’t because every person is unique. That does not mean that we should discount movies that try and spread the acceptance of autism in our society. When all is said and done, these movies were enjoyable, but more importantly they brought many difficult issues into the public eye and disproved many prevalent stereotypes. To quote Luke Jackson once again, “ I know all of this may be teaching my granny to suck eggs...but there just may be something in here that helps someone.

I hope that this helped you. form substandard or low expectations for individuals. portrayed the fictitious life history of Forrest Gump, an individual who was classified in the mental retardation range early in school. The exchange between the school principal and Forrest’s mother clearly illustrated an educational approach grounded in the Burt philosophy: School principal: “ Your boy’s...

different, Miz Gump. His IQ’s 75. ” Ms. Gump: “ Well, we’re all different, Mr. Hancock. He might be a bit on the slow side. He’s not going to a special school to retread tires! Ms. Gump’s response, and the subsequent string of life achievements of her son Forrest (e. g. , star football player in college,

world class ping pong player, Vietnam war hero, CEO of successful shrimp company) reflects the “cup flowing over” perspective on IQ test scores.

That is, Forrest’s achievements were beyond his measured IQ (which was below the average sized “jug” according to Burt). Autism is one of the five pervasive developmental disorders (PDD), which are characterized by widespread abnormalities of social interactions and communication, and severely restricted interests and highly repetitive behavior. When Gump tells us that his childhood sweetheart Jenny is lucky to have a father who kisses and touches her and her sisters all the time, the line is funny because it’s exactly what the innocent Gump would assume. But it’s also not funny. It’s these examples of Gump’s trusting nature being utterly inaccurate that save Forrest Gump from being a mess.

he never judges or condemns Jenny, we clearly aren’t meant to.