

AKIO's LOUD Talking Blog

Posted April 24th – “October Sky Film Review” English 20-2

This week, I watch a movie called “October Sky.” It were directed by Joe Johnston in 1999. This movie definitely old, but I find it surprisingly good. “October Sky” is a successful movie for a few reasons.

One thing I notice right away is the camera angles and how they use so powerfully in this film. Some movies, they only have simple camera angle, but “October Sky” camera angles were very meaningful with emotion and theme information. One shot, Homer is going down into the town mine, to **do the working** for his father who injured at home. He standing in elevator, and the early morning sky is above him and all the miner here with him. The camera angle is a low shot that “looks up” at the sky with Homer as the elevator move down to the dark mine. Sputnik goes through the sky before the mineshaft doors slide shut, hiding night sky from Homer. This shot show how Homer has to “shut out” his dreams about a future with space travel (the sky), so to support the family. The mine represent “reality” for Homer, and sky is his “dreams”.

Conflict and theme are very important in this film. Homers life have lots of conflict. He support his family by **work** in mine, his friends and him love **build** rockets but always get troubled with this activity (they are arrested in one part). His old friend dies, and Homer also always fight with his Dad. Homer Dad don't see Homers dream as good—wants him work in mine for whole life. Even though Homer from a small town and face all these challenge, he never **give** up on his dream. The large number of conflict show this theme, that even when challenged by tough times, we should not leave or forget our goals or dreams.

Dialogue in “October Sky” was also very funny. There are funny things happen all the time in the film, like Homer and his friends being stuck on a bridge railway, because they thought the track no longer in use. I think this, and humour dialogue (the boys they always have funny joking lines) serve a purpose for audience. Homer's teacher say, “How 'bout I believe in the unlucky ones? Hmm? I have to, Mister Turner, I'd go out of my mind.” This make me think Homer and his friends, especially Ellis (dad beat him), because they joke and joke because if no joking around, life would be very sad for them. If Homer's teacher did not root for the unlucky students, her life **may also** be sad too. Humour in this film means to make things not seem so bad as they are for real, I think.

There are many idea in this film that make it successful. The camera shot, conflicts, theme and dialogue are only some good feature of this film. This movie was base on a true story, which even make film more easy to understand for many people. The theme of people face the hard challenge every day, but don't give up relates to my father. When he first moved to Canada from Hong Kong, he **knows** no English, has little money, and no jobs. He wanted his family come to Canada too—he **miss** us, but this also was his dream. Slowly my father **get** used to Canada—he **learn** English, he **get** good job, and finally, he get his family back. Some days he was frustrated—talk to my father back then, and he tired for most of this time, and broke, but he love my mother and us, so we keep him going at these times. I learn a lot towards dreams of my own from my father—if I get challenges, I don't give up.

Akio, I am delighted with how far you have progressed in the course, especially with your written English. I remember talking to you at the beginning of the course, and it seems you have improved your skill substantially! You have done some great work here, pointing out some very interesting ideas about how this film is successful! There is still room for improvement, and I want you to focus on word choice and verb tense. I have highlighted some places where you need to change the verb tense used. You can find more information about this on pages 37–41 in your English Language Arts Handbook. You may consider having a peer editor read your work to see where you missed words or have awkward sentences.