

Name: _____ **Period:** ____ **Date:** _____ **Due:** _____

***Moana* (2016)**
directed by Ron Clements and John Musker

Cast

Auli'i Cravalho as Moana Waialiki
Dwayne Johnson as Maui
Rachel House as Tala Waialiki, Moana's grandmother
Temuera Morrison as Chief Tui Waialiki
Jemaine Clement as Tamatoa
Nicole Scherzinger as Sina Waialiki, Moana's mother
Alan Tudyk as Heihei

Crew

Directors: Ron Clements and John Musker
Producer: Osnat Shurer
Writer: Jared Bush (screenplay) and Ron Clements, John Musker, Chris Williams, Don Hall, Pamela Ribon,
and Aaron and Jordan Kandell (story)
Editor: Jeff Draheim
Music: Mark Mancina, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and Opetia Foa'i
Distribution/Studio Company: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures
MPAA Rating: PG
Running Time: 107 minutes

Background and Introduction to *Moana*

Moana is a 2016 American 3D computer-animated musical fantasy comedy adventure film produced by Walt Disney Animation Studios and released by Walt Disney Pictures. It is the 56th Disney animated feature film. The film tells the story of Moana, the strong-willed daughter of the chief of a Polynesian tribe, who is chosen by the ocean itself to reunite a mystical relic with a goddess. When a blight strikes her island, Moana sets sail in search of Maui, a legendary demigod, in the hope of saving her people.

Directors Ron Clements and John Musker were fascinated to learn during their research into the film that the people of Polynesia abruptly stopped making long-distance voyages about three thousand years ago, then resumed voyaging again a thousand years later, and no one really knows why. They set the film at the end of that era, about two thousand years ago, on a fictional island in the central Pacific Ocean, which drew inspiration from elements of the real-life island nations of Fiji, Samoa, and Tonga. Over the five years it took to develop and produce the film, Clements and Musker recruited experts from across the South Pacific to form an Oceanic Story Trust, who consulted on the film's cultural accuracy and sensitivity as the story evolved through nine versions. Together, they led a team of about 90 animators to work 12-hour days (and Saturdays) to complete their first fully computer-animated film for Walt Disney Studios.

Moana was released theatrically in the United States on November 23, 2016. The film received critical acclaim with particular attention directed to its animation, music, and voice cast. To date, the film has grossed over \$575 million worldwide. The film, along with *Zootopia*, marks the first time since 2002 that Walt Disney Animation Studios has released two feature films in the same year and both films are nominated at the 89th Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature; it also received an Academy Award nomination for Best Original Song ("How Far I'll Go"). (Poster © Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, 2016)

Pre-Viewing, During Viewing, and Post-Viewing Notes

Directions: Conscientious film students prepare themselves for a film by writing any notes about the film that may be important during the pre-viewing process and any notes that the group presentation will make for our post-viewing discussion of the film. Jot down any lecture or discussion material here. In addition, this page is used to record your notes while you watch the film. In the left column, describe scenes from the film that seem intriguing, interesting, or relative to your life. In the right column, write a response to the scene you described in the left column. You may write what you think the scene means, what the scene reminds you of, what you don't understand, how you feel about it, or any other comments.

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Comprehension Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions during or after the movie.

1. What is told in the film's **backstory**? Who is Te Fiti and what happened to her?
2. Who is Maui, and how is he different than humans? What can he do with his fishhook?
3. What did Maui take from Te Fiti? Why is it green? What does this color symbolize in the context of the film? Who confronted him? Why?
4. Who is revealed to tell this story, and what does she caution the village children?
5. What is everyone's reaction to the story except a young Moana? What is Moana **foreshadowed** to do?
6. How is Moana indirectly characterized as a selfless person? What does she assist to the ocean water?
7. How is the ocean **personified**? How does it treat Moana? Why? What does Moana find in the ocean? What is Moana's relationship to the ocean?
8. Who is Chief Tui, Moana's father, and what is Moana destined to be? Why?

9. What is shown in **montage** about life on the island and Moana's childhood? What does Moana desire? Why? Why does her father prevent her? Why?
10. How is Moana's grandmother different from other villagers? What advice does she offer Moana? Why?
11. Where does Moana's father take her? What does this structure **symbolize** to him?
12. Who are Moana's animal friends, Heihei and Pua? Describe them.
13. What is wrong with the island's agriculture and fishing? What is happening to the island? Why?
14. What is Moana's solution, and what is her father's reaction? Why?
15. What is Moana's relationship like with her mother? What **backstory** does Moana's mother say? What is the source of Moana's father's **internal conflict** with the ocean?
16. What **internal conflict** does Moana sing in "How Far I'll Go"? What does she decide to do? Why?
17. How is Moana indirectly characterized for her actions? What happens to her and her boat?

18. What advice does Moana's grandmother offer? What does Moana's grandmother **foreshadow** will happen to her? What does Moana's grandmother reveal to Moana?
19. What does Moana learn about her people's past? What does she learn about her future by learning about her past?
20. How did Maui's actions affect Moana's people and their island?
21. What **foreshadows** what will happen to Moana's grandmother? What advice does she give her, and what does she give Moana?
22. What does Moana decide to do, and how is she better prepared this time?
23. What implies that Moana's grandmother passes away? How do the filmmakers make this a joyous rather than tragic scene?
24. What **comic relief** does Heihei provide?
25. Is Moana a skilled sailor? Why? What happens to her boat, and where does she arrive?

26. How does Maui react to Moana? Why?

27. What **pun** does Maui make about “tweeting” that is humorous to adult viewers?

28. What does Maui sing about his accomplishments and past in “You’re Welcome”? How is he indirectly characterized?

29. What does Maui attempt to do to Moana, and how does she escape? How does the ocean assist her?

30. How is Maui’s tattoo **personified**? How does Maui react to the Heart of Te Fiti? Why?

31. Who arrives and what do they want? What **external conflict** occurs? How is Moana indirectly characterized by her actions in this scene, and how is Maui indirectly characterized by his actions? How do they escape?

32. How does Moana convince Maui to assist her? How does a **pull back/zoom out/reveal shot** provide **comic relief**?

33. What does Maui teach Moana? Why? What **character archetype** does he become to her?

34. What **dramatic irony** does Maui provide viewers when he says that Moana is a princess because she wears a dress and has an animal **sidekick**?
35. What does the **close-up** of Maui smiling when he's teaching her how to sail imply when Moana's hand is in the water? Do Disney films typically make these kinds of jokes? Why or why not?
36. What nightmare does Moana have? Why? What **internal conflict** does she have?
37. Where does Maui take Moana? Who likely has his fishhook? Why?
38. Does Maui respect Moana? Why or why not? Why doesn't he want Moana to go with him? Why does Moana go with him?
39. What **external conflicts** does Moana battle in the Realm of Monsters?
40. What is Tamatoa's **tragic flaw** according to Maui? What is Maui's plan to get his fishhook? How does he use Moana?
41. What does Tamatoa sing in "Shiny"? What does he desire, or how is he indirectly characterized?

42. What happens to Maui when he tries to shapeshift? Why?
43. What does Tamatoa sing about as he beats up Maui? What may have happened to Maui without Moana?
44. How does Moana trick Tamatoa, and what is Maui's reaction to her actions?
45. How does Maui get his tattoos? What does Maui's back tattoo reveal about Maui's childhood? How did he become a demigod? What is the source of his **internal conflict**?
46. Why does Maui keep committing heroic actions? How does Moana help him recover?
47. What is shown in **montage** about how Moana and Maui both help each other? What does one teach the other? What compliment does Maui give Moana? Why?
48. What happens in the **external conflict** between Maui and Moana against Te Kā? What is Te Kā's weakness that Moana discovers? What drawback does Maui suffer?
49. What does Maui decide to do? Why? What is Moana's reaction? Why?
50. Why is Moana filmed via **high angle** when she asks the ocean to choose another Chosen One (i.e. her)?

51. Who arrives to inspire and encourage Moana? What does Moana realize about herself in “I Am Moana”?
52. How does Moana prepare for and outsmart Te Kā, showing what Maui has taught her?
53. Who returns and assists Moana? How is he indirectly characterized by his actions? What sacrifice does Maui make to save Moana?
54. What does Moana realize about Te Kā? What is the origin of Te Kā? What created her?
55. What does Moana make Te Kā realize, and who does she become? How?
56. What does Maui realize about himself? How does he atone for his earlier actions?
57. What are the consequences of Moana’s and Maui’s actions? How are each rewarded?
58. How do Maui and Moana say goodbye? What new tattoo does Maui earn? Why?
59. What do Moana and her people decide to do? What does Moana leave on the top of the island? Why? What is the implied **resolution**?

Discussion Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions after you watch the film.

1. Can *Moana* be considered a **feminist film**? Why or why not?
2. Why do Moana's people decide to voyage to new islands even though they have resolved the problems that have affected their island in the **resolution**?
3. What does the conch on Moana's island **symbolize**? Why does she leave it on top of the island on the pile of rocks for each chief?
4. How does Maui's tattoo act as his conscience? How is his tattoo his Jiminy Cricket?
5. The film is rated PG. Disney's older animated films are usually rated G. What content and jokes in *Moana* earn it a PG? Are these worth the PG rating? Why or why not?
6. Why did Disney cast Polynesian actors for to voice the Polynesian characters, and how does this casting enhance the film?
7. What **themes** does the film imply? Why?