

The Lion King (Roger Allers and Rob Minkoff, 1994; 90 min.)

“Original Screenplay” by Irene Mecchi, Jonathan Roberts, Linda Woolverton, Brenda Chapman, plus 25 more names listed on IMDB.com, plus uncredited plots from *Hamlet*, *Kimba the Lion*, etc...

Abstract (adapted from box cover, Netflix.com and IMDB.com):

A young lion prince, Simba, is born in Africa, thus making his uncle Scar the second in line to the throne. Scar plots with the hyenas to kill King Mufasa and Prince Simba, thus making himself King. The King is killed and Simba is led to believe by Scar that it was his fault, and so flees the kingdom in shame. After years of exile he is persuaded to return home to overthrow the usurper and claim the kingdom as his own, thus completing the "Circle of Life."

Cast:

Young Simba (Jonathan Taylor Thomas)
Adult Simba (Matthew Broderick)
Scar (Jeremy Irons)
Mufasa (James Earl Jones)
Adult Nala (Moirra Kelly)
Timon (Nathan Lane)
Young Nala (Niketa Calame)
Pumbaa (Ernie Sabella)

Rafiki (Robert Guillaume)
Zazu (Rowan Atkinson)
Shenzi (Whoopi Goldberg)
Banzai (Cheech Marin)
Ed (Jim Cummings)
Sarabi (Madge Sinclair)
Sarafina, Nala's Mother (Zoe Leader)

Questions for Discussion:

1. How are **normalcy** and **class** constructed in *The Lion King*? Give some examples from the film, and explain how your examples illustrate the roles expected of differing races and classes.
2. How are **gendered** attributes of femininity and masculinity constructed in *The Lion King*? Give some examples from the film, and explain how your examples illustrate the roles expected of females and males.
3. How are **race**, **colonialism**, and/or **orientalism** constructed in *The Lion King*? Give some examples from the film, and explain how your examples illustrate the roles expected of differing races and classes.
4. How is **sexuality** constructed in *The Lion King*? Give some examples from the film, and explain how your examples illustrate the roles expected of differing races and classes.
5. How is **disability** constructed in *The Lion King*? Give some examples from the film, and explain how your examples illustrate the roles expected of differing races and classes.

ASSIGNMENT:

Review your notes on *The Lion King* based on the above questions. Then **type up a bulleted list** of your observations on how each of these identity categories that we have studied in this section of the course functions in the film (giving examples from the film). **Bring your list to class to turn in.**