MINI-REVIEW: *Toy Story*

So, what could a mini-review of Toy Story look like?

Here are some things Janet Maslin addressed in her review:

* Voice talents
* Characterization (Woody as leader, Woody vs. Buzz rivalry)
* Anthropomorphism (“flat” human characters vs. vivid, personified toys)
* Setting (Andy’s room, Pizza Planet, torture-chamber room of kid next door)
* Animation feats (1st CGI; what is new/innovative/appealing about it)
* Music (“You’ve Got a Friend in Me”)
* Theme (friendship, survival, change/adaptation)
* Sense of nostalgia it creates

Sample response in terms of something I love about *Toy Story*:

What I loved about *Toy Story* was the childhood nostalgia it invoked. Bo Peep reminded me of my beloved Barbie dolls, living it up in the dream house and cruising around in a Ferrari. I remember the Speak and Spell, and while I didn’t play with little green army men, my brother did. In one scene, a soldier is crushed under the mom’s foot, but in my house, I suspect the greatest fatalities came when they got sucked up in the vacuum cleaner. The scene with “the claw” in the pizza place reminded me of summers down the shore, begging my parents for more quarters to try to snag a Care Bear or Pound Puppy. I even found that menace kid next door relatable; even though I didn’t completely mutilate my toys like the baby doll head/spider concoction, I gave Barbie a few haircuts. And I remember throwing my brother’s Ninja Turtle Num-chuks at him when I got mad at him. Overall, the film made me look back with “warm fuzzies” on a childhood of play, of imagination, and sometimes even a little mischief.

Your assignment: Pick a movie you’ve seen from the Top Grossing Films of 2019. Write a mini-review in which you pick TWO of the “specificity” elements from the hint sheets. Provide a specific example of each of those elements as you write a mini-review of the film, explaining what you liked or disliked about the movie. Aim for 5-7 sentences.