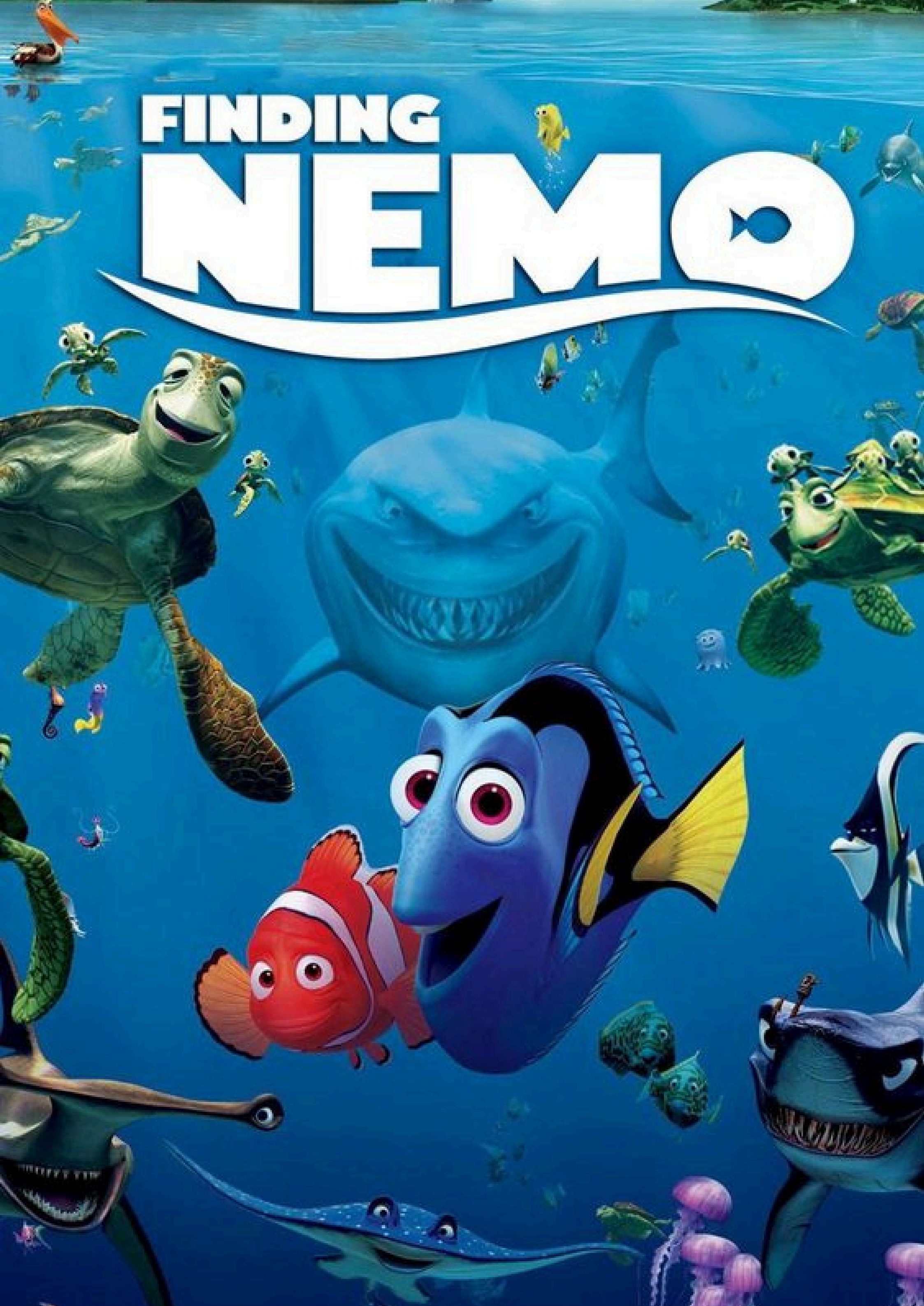
FINDING NEMO





Synopsis

Once upon a time, in the depths of the ocean, Marlin, a clownfish, and his wife, Coral, enjoyed the beauty of their underwater world. They had a disagreement about naming their children, with Marlin favoring "Marlin Jr." and "Coral Jr." while Coral preferred "Nemo." Their conversation was cut short when they noticed their other fishy companions had disappeared, and a menacing Barracuda approached their eggs. Marlin tried to protect them but was injured, leaving only one surviving egg, which he named Nemo, as per Coral's choice.

Years later, Nemo was excited about his first day of school, but Marlin was overprotective due to Nemo's unique fin, a result of the Barracuda attack. Marlin accompanied Nemo to school and even checked the surroundings. However, Nemo's curiosity led him to venture to the dangerous drop-off, defying his father's warnings. Marlin scolded Nemo, causing friction between them.

Nemo, feeling restricted by his father's fears, defied Marlin by swimming closer to a boat. Unfortunately, this led to his capture by divers. Marlin desperately tried to follow the boat but lost track of it.

As Marlin embarked on a journey to find Nemo, he encountered Dory, a forgetful fish, who agreed to help. Together, they faced challenges such as Bruce the shark, an anglerfish, and a swarm of jellyfish. Meanwhile, Nemo found himself in a dentist's aquarium in Sydney.

Marlin and Dory eventually located a diver's mask that led to Nemo but lost it. Marlin was angry with Dory but eventually forgave her and continued the search. Nemo, with the help of fellow aquarium fish, devised a plan to escape.

Marlin and Dory joined a group of turtles on the East Australian Current to reach Sydney. Nemo's story spread throughout the ocean, and Nigel the pelican informed Nemo that his father was looking for him.

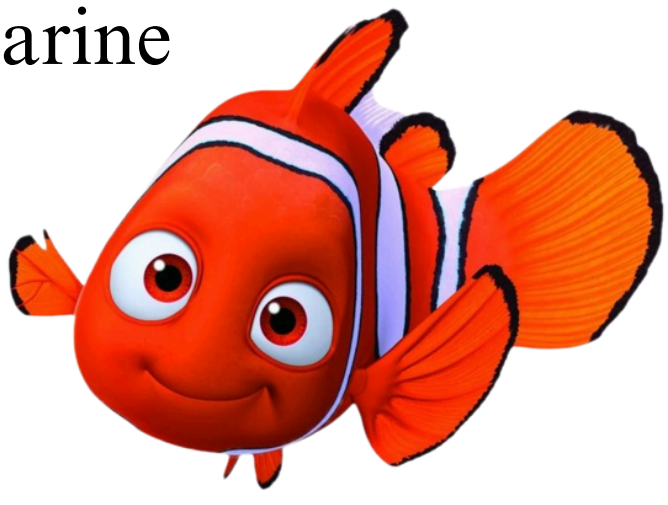
In a heartwarming reunion, Nemo saved Dory from a fishing net, and Marlin admitted his mistakes. The film ended with Nemo's new independence and Marlin's trust in him.



Character Sketch of Marlin

In terms of his physical appearance, Marlin is a small clownfish with vibrant orange and white scales. His black stripes, fins, and tail add contrast to his coloration, and he possesses large, expressive brown eyes. Notably, he is nearly twice the size of his son Nemo.

Marlin possesses a caring and kind nature, but he can also be prone to nervousness and jumping to conclusions. His deep love for Nemo is evident as he goes to great lengths to protect his son. At the start of the film "Finding Nemo," Marlin is depicted as an overprotective father, constantly watching over Nemo and fretting about his "lucky" fin. However, over the course of the story, Marlin undergoes a transformation, growing more adventurous and bold, ultimately earning a legendary reputation among marine creatures in Australian waters.





Crisis

The primary crisis in "Finding Nemo" is the kidnapping of Nemo, Marlin's son, by a diver. Marlin embarks on a long journey to rescue Nemo, facing a series of crises along the way

- Nemo is kidnapped and taken to a fish tank in a dentist's office.
- Marlin, Nemo's father, must travel across the ocean to rescue him.
- Along the way, Marlin faces many challenges, such as sharks, jellyfish, and getting lost.
- He also learns to trust Dory, a forgetful fish who helps him on his journey.
- In the end, Marlin and Nemo work together to escape from the fish tank and return home.

Throughout the film, Marlin and Nemo each face their own personal crises, but the central theme is the father's relentless pursuit to reunite with his son. It is a story about love, family, and overcoming challenges. It shows that even when things are tough, we can overcome any obstacle if we work together.



Defense Mechanisms

Defense mechanisms are a form of defense to overcome anxiety.

- Displacement: Defense mechanism involving expressing feelings that would be threatening if directed at the real target onto a less threatening substitute target i.e., when the desire or impulse itself is acceptable to the individual but directing it towards a specific person is too threatening, they may redirect these feelings towards someone or something that serves as a symbolic substitute. For example, an individual who is frustrated with their boss might return home and displace their anger by mistreating a pet or resorting to violence against their family members.

There is a scene where Marlin follows Dory to show him the direction of the ship carrying Nemo. However, the situation takes a turn as Marlin becomes frustrated by Dory's behaviour, accusing her of leading him astray. Marlin's anger flares as he is deeply concerned about Nemo's abduction by divers. While Dory explains her short-term memory loss, Marlin's anxiety leads him to dismiss her, believing she is wasting his time in the quest to find Nemo. In this instance, Marlin employs displacement as a defence mechanism to alleviate his anxiety by putting the blame onto Dory.

Marlin's ego is dominant as it attempts to balance his immediate emotional responses (fear and anger) with his sense of responsibility and societal norms. Marlin's anxiety and frustration can be seen as a reflection of his superego. He is deeply concerned about Nemo's well-being, which aligns with his role as a protective and responsible parent. The superego's influence can be observed in Marlin's desire to maintain the safety and well-being of his son, Nemo.

- Regression: Defense mechanism involving falling back on childlike patterns or an earlier stage which represents the time when the individual felt secure, comfortable and free from pressure as a way of coping with stressful situations. It is not limited to children but also manifests in older children and adults as they exhibit childish and inflexible behaviour as a means to alleviate anxiety.

Marlin's use of regression can be observed in this dialogue wherein
Bruce playfully chomps, prompting Marlin to quickly seek refuge behind Dory, while Bruce laughs heartily. Bruce observes both Dory and Marlin and asks why they are out so late. Marlin, still hidden behind Dory, responds with, "We're not doing anything, we're not even out" .
One common characteristic of regression is the tendency to display childlike behaviors, such as seeking protection when afraid. In this scene, Marlin's fear of the shark leads him to immediately hide behind Dory, demonstrating his use of regression as a coping mechanism to alleviate anxiety and revert to a more childlike state.
In this situation, Marlin's use of the id is most prominent. Marlin's instinctual fear of the shark and the immediate reaction to seek refuge behind Dory is a manifestation of the id. He doesn't engage in a rational or socially conditioned response; instead, he instinctively reverts to a childlike, protective behavior to satisfy his need for safety and security in the face of a perceived threat (the shark).



Defense Mechanisms

- Reaction formation: Defense mechanism involving forming an emotional reaction or attitude that is the opposite of one's threatening or unacceptable actual thoughts. They may appear excessively obsessive to prevent their true sentiments from becoming evident to others. They often conceal or mask their genuine emotions, striving to maintain a facade to prevent anxiety from emerging. For instance, consider a child who feels anger toward their mother but displays heightened concern and affection instead.

Marlin's use of the reaction formation defense mechanism can be observed when Bruce invites Marlin and Dory to the shark's party, Dory eagerly accepts the invitation with enthusiasm. However, Marlin, though he acknowledges the appeal of the party, hesitates because of his underlying fear of the shark, which he perceives as a threat. Nevertheless, due to Dory's enthusiasm and Bruce's insistence, Marlin ultimately agrees to attend the party. This shows Marlin's use of reaction formation, as he acts in a manner contradictory to his true feelings, which involve fear of the shark.

In this situation, Marlin's use of the ego is most dominant. Marlin's initial fear and hesitancy in accepting the invitation to the shark's party are rooted in his concerns for safety and his responsibilities as a parent (superego). He recognizes the potential danger associated with the shark but also acknowledges the appeal of the party (id).

- Sublimation: Defense mechanism involving turning socially unacceptable urges into socially acceptable behaviour. The internal feelings are redirected towards alternative outlets of expression that society deems appropriate and praiseworthy which serves an individual's well-being but also contributes to the welfare of the community. For instance, many accomplished artists have experienced hardship in their lives and they utilize art and music as a medium to express and channel their emotions.

Marlin's use of the sublimation defense mechanism is seen wherein Nemo is determined to rescue Dory and a school of fish trapped in a fishing net, but Marlin initially opposes the idea due to his past anxieties about Nemo's safety. Despite Marlin's reservations, Nemo persists in convincing his father that he can be of help. Eventually, Marlin relents and permits Nemo to act, leading to the successful rescue of Dory and the school of fish. Marlin's decision to instruct the fish to swim down is a manifestation of the sublimation defense mechanism, wherein he transforms his anxiety into a productive action. This not only enables him to trust Nemo but also ensures the safety of the entire group, including Dory and the school of fish.

In this situation, Marlin's use of the ego is most dominant. Marlin initially opposes Nemo's desire to rescue Dory and the school of fish because of his anxieties rooted in his responsibilities as a parent (superego). He's concerned about Nemo's safety and well-being. The ego, in this case, seeks to balance Marlin's immediate concerns about Nemo's safety (superego) with the need to take productive actions to address the situation (id). Ultimately, Marlin's decision is driven by his desire to ensure the safety of the group and to trust Nemo to act independently, making the ego the dominant psychological force .



Defense Mechanisms

- Repression: When the ego feels threatened by unwanted impulses, it protects itself by suppressing these impulses and pushing distressing emotions into the unconscious. These repressed impulses may resurface in various forms such as dreams, or through other defense mechanisms. For example, a person who almost drowned during childhood but cannot recall the event, even when prompted may still harbor an intense fear of open water. These irrational fears known as phobias have their roots in the repression of traumatic experiences. Marlin's repression of trauma is evident in his avoidance and suppression of memories related to the barracuda attack in which he lost his mate Coral and all their unhatched eggs. This event is deeply painful and traumatic for him, and he represses the full emotional impact of the loss by avoiding thinking about it or discussing it with others. For example, when Dory asks Marlin about his family, he dismisses the question, indicating his reluctance to confront his past trauma. He briefly mentions that he has a son, Nemo, but doesn't elaborate on what happened to Nemo's mother or their other offspring

In this situation, Marlin's ego is the dominant . Marlin's avoidance and suppression of memories related to the barracuda attack, his reluctance to confront his past trauma, and his brief mention of his son, Nemo, but avoidance of discussing what happened to Nemo's mother, are indicative of ego-driven behavior. Marlin's behavior reflects the influence of the ego, which is attempting to shield him from the emotional pain associated with the traumatic experience.

- Denial: Defense mechanism involving refusal to recognize or acknowledge a threatening situation. People in denial may block external events or circumstances from the mind so that they don’t have to deal with the emotional impact or avoid painful feelings of certain events. For example, some people who are diagnosed with a terminal illness might deny the severity of their condition.

Marlin's initial use of denial is seen in his inability to accept the loss of his mate, Coral, and their unhatched eggs due to a barracuda attack. He refuses to acknowledge that she is gone, choosing to believe that she might still be alive. For example, in the film's opening scenes, when Marlin wakes up to find the debris of the attack and the lone surviving egg, he appears to be in denial about Coral's death. He reassures the egg (Nemo) that everything is fine, despite the obvious tragedy that has occurred. Marlin's denial extends to his son, Nemo. In the situations described, Marlin's use of the ego is most dominant, with elements of the superego. In Marlin's initial denial of Coral's death and refusal to accept that she is gone, the ego plays a dominant role. Marlin's inability to confront the reality of Coral's death is a defense mechanism driven by the ego to shield him from the immediate emotional distress of her loss. The superego influences Marlin's actions and decisions in these situations. It represents societal norms and moral values, and Marlin's denial about Nemo's need for independence can be viewed as an expression of his deep-seated concerns about Nemo's safety and well-being, which are influenced by his role as a responsible parent (superego).



Critical Analysis

- The film follows two parallel storylines: Marlin's quest to reunite with Nemo and Nemo's attempts to escape the fish tank and return to his father. Marlin's journey exposes him to new experiences and introduces him to a forgetful but helpful companion, Dory, without whom Nemo's rescue would be impossible. Ultimately, Nemo manages to escape the tank and is reunited with his father.

Finding Nemo delves into various themes like disobedience and redemption. The film presents Nemo's choice to defy his father's warnings, leading to consequences for his actions. Despite the human tendency toward sinful behavior, God continues to forgive us. Just as Marlin relentlessly pursues Nemo, God's unwavering love calls for our return.

The film portrays the inevitability of loss and how it shapes memories and emotions. Loss is evident from the beginning when Nemo's mother, Coral, is killed by a barracuda. Marlin's long-standing grief over this loss is a central part of the story, emphasising the harsh reality that loss is an inescapable part of life. Nemo and Marlin separation highlights the importance of family and the struggles in defining it. Family love is a central theme, showcased through Marlin's dedication to rescuing Nemo.

Hope and despair are also key themes in the film. Characters like Dory and Gill embody hope, even in dark times. Dory's optimism teaches Marlin the importance of hope, and Gill's transformation from indifference to hope highlights the resilience that emerges from despair. In short, the three morals of the film is 'the importance of teamwork', 'your difference do not define you', and 'your parents will never give up on you'.