

# Disney Themes

Consider the Disney princess movies, like:

Snow White

Cinderella

Sleeping Beauty

The Little Mermaid

Beauty and the Beast

Aladdin

Pocahontas

Mulan

The Princess and the Frog

Tangled

Brave

Frozen

Moana

Raya and the Last Dragon

Encanto

Elena and the Secret of Avalor

Which of the Disney movies portray the following themes?

- “Follow your heart,” regardless of counsel, logic, the effect of your decisions on others, or right and wrong. In the words of Aladdin, “Tell me, Princess, now when did you last let your heart decide?” [NOTE: The Bible explicitly warns against that mentality. Jeremiah 17:9—“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”] Who to date/marry should be based on “love at first sight”—i.e., an immediate attraction that feels electric or magical. “**This** is love,” although wishing on a wishing well, fairy godmother, or a star helps. [Aladdin, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Pocahontas, Little Mermaid, Moana, Snow White, Mulan, Princess and the Frog; also Pinocchio]
- Parents and wise counsel are ultimately irrelevant (not really seen), because it always works out well in the end for the princesses—they get their man and “live happily ever after” without their parents’ help. [Beauty and the Beast, Cinderella, Snow White, The Little Mermaid]
- Getting parents involved is a bad idea anyway, as they often stop us from following our heart—which is the **ultimate** right thing to do in these movies. “They just don’t understand what we have.” In the words of Jasmine and Aladdin: “A whole new world; a new fantastic point of view. No one to tell us ‘No,’ or where to go, or say we’re only dreaming.” [Aladdin, Sleeping Beauty, Aladdin, Tangled]
- Getting parents involved is a bad idea also because they are not trustworthy. Parents/authority figures shouldn’t be trusted, or at the very least, treated with skepticism. Ariel’s dad is depicted as a tyrant. Aurora’s parents are depicted as meaning well, but not having good judgment—being oblivious to the needs of their daughter. The king in “Cinderella” is a buffoon, as well as the Sultan (Jasmine’s dad) in “Aladdin” and Belle’s dad in “Beauty and the Beast.” The primary parent figures in “Snow White,” “Cinderella,” and “Tangled” are evil. Yes, they are technically not biological mothers, but (1) the message is still being sent to distrust parent figures/authority (because like with Rapunzel, you never really know, right?); and (2) considering how many divorces there are today, many and perhaps most children are being raised by step parents. Surely those kids with step parents haven’t missed the message. [Pocahontas, Mulan, Moana, Brave, Little Mermaid, Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, Snow White, Cinderella, Tangled]

- God is irrelevant in deciding who to be with, as He's never mentioned in these movies. Meaningful conversation is also irrelevant. Taking time to get to know each other—whether it be months or years—is unnecessary, and in fact, pointless, since “fate” has worked all this out for the couple anyway. [All of them]
- If they follow in the footsteps of the princes and princesses in these movies and mimic them, they'll live “happily ever after.” After all, it worked out great for each of the princesses. [All except Frozen, and maybe Tangled]
- Intimate contact (e.g., kissing) before marriage is not only acceptable, it's important. “True love's kiss” is beautiful, and it's crucial in proving one's love and sometimes, even in saving lives! [Not Moana, Frozen, Tangled]
- Being secluded and essentially unsupervised (e.g., in the forest) when developing romance is the way to go. In fact, doing so late at night (e.g., “Cinderella”) and even overnight (e.g., “Aladdin,” “The Princess and the Frog,” and “Beauty and the Beast”—I know, the Beast and Belle were kind of supervised sometimes by a candlestick, but does that count?) is icing on the cake. [All except Frozen]