

Toy Story 3

Film length: 1 hr. 49 min

Film rating: G

Director: Lee Unkrich

Genre: Animation/Family

Synopsis & Central Plot:

The gang is back in Toy Story 3! The same characters we know and love from the first two movies again have some crazy adventures headed their way. Andy, their fun and imaginative owner who has grown up and lost interest in his toys, is now going to college. The toys face an important life-changing situation. Will they be bound for the attic or marked for donation? And what about Woody, Andy's forever favorite toy?

All but Woody are packaged up and destined for the attic, but in a mixup, almost get thrown out. The toys eventually wind up at Sunnyside Daycare and adventure ensues. Woody realizes the mistake, and goes in to save his friends and get them back to the attic in Andy's house. They meet new toys who seem to have good intentions, but their actions and choices reveal a darker truth. In order to survive, the toys have to plan a daring escape, where obstacles lurk at every corner.

As the toys go through their journeys, they have to struggle with their meaning for existence. They search for their true purpose, and try to find what it means to be authentically themselves. While in the midst of all this action, they also work hard to stay together, and discover what it truly means to be fully in community with each other. Together, they face many dangers, and truly find their "toy"manity in themselves, their work, and in community. Toy Story 3 is filled with action, laughter, and heart-warming moments.

Main themes to engage through the film:

- Acceptance of change and transitions in life
- Passing on what you love
- Hope and imagination
- Participation and full engagement in life
- Abuses of power and the oppressive use of force
- Authentic friendship and sacrifice for others
- Betrayal and trust
- The importance of community and solidarity
- Leaving no one behind and sticking together



Mr. Pricklepants: [to Woody] *Sunnyside is a place of ruin and despair, ruled by an evil bear who smells of strawberries!*

Catholic Social Teaching Themes and Connections:

- **Fully Human in Community** – This is an underlying theme and a central one in the Toy Story 3 (recognizing that the “toys” could be seen as types of people too). We become who we are by interacting with those around us. We can be positively and negatively shaped by those around us. Only in community can we truly thrive.
- **The Call to Participation** –The toys really just want to be full participants in being played with. They are loyal to Andy and see themselves as “Andy’s toys” but they just want to fulfill their purpose and be played with.
- **Stewardship**– The central character, Andy, has to make a challenging decision about what to do with his toys and who can benefit most from his choice. He wants to find a suitable way to recycle his toys and find a proper home for them.
- **Common Good** – At the daycare, all the toys have to find a way to get past their differences and work together for the common good. They are in this situation together and have to care for each other - even the toys they don’t particularly like. They have to stay together to survive.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- In the film, the toys were resistant and fearful about the changes that they were facing as Andy was deciding what to do next with them. When have you faced a change in your life that you were resistant to? Describe what happened when you had to embrace a significant change; what emotional and spiritual challenges did you face?
- What virtues do you see present in the characters in this film? What is the importance of such virtues in dealing with change?
- Where or how do you see the darker side of human nature portrayed in the film? Where do you see the positive side of human nature portrayed?
- Have you ever gone out of your way for someone you did not particularly like or had a hard time getting along with? What happened? What did you learn?
- At various times the toys had to deal with the fear of rejection or being ignored. How does it affect them? Where have you had to face the fear of rejection or being ignored? How did it change or affect you?



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- Conversion can come from unexpected encounters. Where do you see significant conversions in the toys in the film? What connections can you make to conversion in real life?
- The film deals with the themes of hope and hopelessness. When have you ever felt hopeless that a situation would change? Have you experienced hopelessness in your spiritual life? How did you get out of either place? What kept you going during difficult times? Have you ever given up?
- In the film Andy says of Woody: “Now Woody, he’s been my pal for as long as I can remember. He’s brave, like a cowboy should be. And kind, and smart. But the thing that makes Woody special, is he’ll never give up on you... ever. He’ll be there for you, no matter what.”
How do you see evidence of this in the film? Woody has some real choices to make about where he puts himself in the end. Why do you think he makes the choice he does?
- When they get to the daycare, Woody observes:
Woody: We’re all still here! I - I mean, yeah, we’ve lost friends along the way... Wheezy... and Etch...
Rex the Green Dinosaur: And Bo Peep?
Woody: ...Yeah. Even - even Bo.
What friends have you had to leave behind as you grew up and changed? What do you find to be the most important qualities of a good friend?
- In the film you see Andy’s toys making sacrifices for one another in order to accomplish their goals. Who has made sacrifices for you so that you could accomplish your own goals? How have you done this for others? What does this tell us about being fully human in community? What does it tell us about the common good?
- In the daycare center, Andy’s toys, the newcomers are treated harshly but they don’t realize it at first. When does the realization strike them? Why are they treated this way? Who are the newcomers in our society and how are they treated? Why do you think this is often the case? What dynamics are at work here? Is it just? Why is hospitality and inclusion an important part of the Christian tradition?
- In the film, Barbie says:
“Authority should derive from the consent of the governed, not from threat of force!”
Why does she say this and what does she mean? Among the toys there is a hierarchy of power and authority: where do you see power used for good? Where do you see power misused to control or manipulate?
- The power of friendship and solidarity is a significant theme in all of the Toy Story films. How do you see this theme emerge and develop in each of the three movies? What are the recurring messages? Is there any new aspects of this theme in Toy Story 3?
- Each Disney film has a villain to contend with. Who is the villain in this movie? Describe the influence and actions of this character. What role or purpose does a villain play in bringing to light important values? Describe the impact of this villain’s choices and actions. What causes this strawberry-scented villain to go bad?
- In the exchanges between Andy and his sister, she is much more into technology vs. toys. How are we changed by technology? Does it affect our creativity or capacity for developing imagination? What are some ways that we can maintain our creativity and imaginative powers when we grow up?
- One of the key messages of the movie is the power of working together. Among the most essential human needs is the need to feel loved and to belong; in Catholic Social Teaching, solidarity is a key element? Where do you see this best illustrated in the film?
- What is the most important message that you take away from the film?

