

Ferris Bueller's Day Off

Specialist Focus: **Genre**

| Teen Drama Genre Conventions | Definition/Examples | Evidence in Ferris Bueller's Day Off |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Character Stereotypes: Cliques – can create a sense of segregation | Groups of students such as 'jocks/cheerleaders', 'geeks/nerds', 'Loners', 'People who aren't in a clique' (often the protagonist of the film) | |
| Mise-en-scene: Location - Houses of main characters | In Mainstream Hollywood films these often tend to be situated in affluent suburban areas of major cities. Gives the audience an insight into the home lives of the character(s). | |
| Mise-en-scene: Location - High school | Helps to emphasise the cliques and the segregation felt by the main character(s) who does not belong to a social group. Audience can relate to this setting. | |
| Themes: Feeling like an outcast | Not having friends, feeling invisible and ignored. Peer pressure - being tricked or pressured into doing things e.g. smoking, drinking, dangerous behaviour. | |
| Themes: Rebellion | Teenage characters reject the notion of authority. Creates conflict with parents, teachers, police etc. | |
| Themes: Sexuality | Another issue that teenagers can relate to. It is often the time when young people are becoming more aware of their sexuality. | |
| Themes: Mental health | A young person struggling with mental health is a convention of some teen dramas. Anxiety and depression are some of the most common issues they face. | |
| Props - Cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal substances | Help to link with the convention of rebellion and the 'coming of age' aspect of teen films. Many teenagers go through this stage and can therefore relate. | |
| Characters: The love interest | A love interest for the film's protagonist is a key genre feature. It creates a sense of romance for the audience. | |
| Characters: The best friend | A character type in nearly all teen dramas. Acts as a sidekick/advisor to the main character. ' The Helper ' in Propp's character roles. | |
| Characters: The antagonist | The 'bad guy'. Usually a rival. The antagonist causes issues for the protagonist. One of the most important characters in the film because without them there would be no issue and therefore no storyline. | |
| Viewpoint | From the teenager's POV. Often white, male, heterosexual and privileged. Female lead roles more prominent from the 1990s onwards. | |