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LANG 3100

Response Paper

Akira

Akira is well known for being one of the best animated films of all time. And I believe that it deserves that title. Its mesmerizing animation, the action packed bike races, and the atmosphere of Neo-Tokyo are spectacular. Every character the viewer sees has a distinct look that is somehow similar to everyone in Neo-Tokyo. All of the characters seem to have had a rough upbringing in such a grim and dark city. One can't help but appreciate the artistry but also the sad and dreary nature of life in Neo-Tokyo. From graffiti to trash to drugs and so on. It's a harsh reality of what some might believe could happen in the future. And this is why I believe we are a product of our environment.

I believe Tetsuo is a perfect example of what can happen to an individual being brought up in an environment like Neo-Tokyo. The political unrest, broken buildings, drugs, trash has got to be a terrible way to grow up as a child. Just like in real life we are a product of our environment. Tetsuo was bullied heavily as a child by his classmates being a new kid at school, which shows how much of an impact this had on him later in the film. Tetsuo had finally gained these incredible powers that he used to hurt many people. Tetsuo brought out his rage pent up over years of living in this grim reality and unleashed on everyone he knew.

Akira is a marvelous film and has many interpretations, but I believe it's important to note and not underestimate the impact of one's upbringing in their daily lives. I think this is a good time to reflect on our society and how we treat one another. If we treat everyone with the

same respect and care then maybe we won't have outcomes like Tetsuo. So let us appreciate the film “Akira” and remember that we are the product of our environment.