

Over the past few decades, anime has made its impact on America's entertainment society and has allowed people to immerse themselves in Japanese culture. Anime's popularity has grown throughout the decades through various storytelling techniques and themes within each series or movie. Overall, anime is a work of art in and of itself that also educates viewers on the cultural and social aspects of Japan through different types of profound themes.

First of all, many writers utilize the *kishotenketsu* technique in storytelling that appeals to many. Unlike Western storytelling methods, *kishotenketsu* does not revolve around conflict within a story, but the character developments. For example, Ghibli Studios' Hayao Miyazaki has incorporated *kishotenketsu* into many of his films such as his Academy Award winning one, "Spirited Away." The movie mainly tells the story of Chihiro's development of maturity and ambition. While conflict does occur towards the end of the movie, it is not the defining aspect of the story. This technique has thus appealed to many Western viewers because of its unordinary take on storytelling and has thus led anime as a whole to become extremely popular with American youth.

Additionally, anime contains intriguing storylines and art work that captivate viewers, leaving them wanting more. Anime's various genres contain stories for every viewer, anywhere from romance and slice of life to psychological and horror. Each creator also has their own distinct art style that fits well with their plots. For instance, Hajime Isayama's "Attack on Titan" has become extremely popular in the United States due to its expressive and detailed art and storyline. Isayama incorporates a myriad of symbolism that generates the feeling of appreciation for Japan's beauty, entrancing viewers, thus contributing to anime's growing popularity among America's youth audience..

However, anime is not just for entertainment purposes, but can provide educational benefits, as well. Many, specifically in the slice of life genre, present interactions between characters like those that occur in real life. These interactions teach viewers about the etiquette and customs within Japan's society. Also, many anime films provide insight to Japan's famous landmarks. In particular, Makoto Shinkai incorporates a few Tokyo sights in his films, as a way to demonstrate Japan's beauty and establish the realistic social setting of each story. This allows viewers to connect more with the characters and structural aspects of Japan. Other anime films like "A Silent Voice," express how the schooling industry runs in Japan and the regulations that come with it. For example, the locker system relating to indoor and outdoor shoes is expressed within the film, and teaches about cultural aspects that are not found in other countries. Also, the film displays an honest view of the occurring issues of bullying in Japan.

As a result, anime's popularity among America's youth can be attributed to the compelling storylines, art work, and stylistic choices found within each series or film. And, anime is not just an asset to the entertainment industry, but can be resourceful in teaching about Japan's overall culture.