

Mirelle Tinker

“*Over the Garden Wall* and *The Divine Comedy*: The Impacts of Literature in Modern Media”

Media and Literature Analysis

Faculty Sponsor: Kati Lustyik

Basic Creative Abstract

Debuting as Cartoon Network’s first mini-series, Patrick McHale’s cartoon *Over the Garden Wall* provides a unique mix of Americana nostalgia and references to Dante Alighieri’s *The Divine Comedy*. The connection between modern media, classical literature, and the subsequent success that followed the series (winning both a Reuben and Emmy Award), offers an interesting narrative on the portrayal of stories, characters, and messages, as well as how audiences receive them. This project aims to dissect and analyze the reasoning behind this connection, using the example of the poem *The Divine Comedy* and cartoon *Over the Garden Wall* as a case study on the impacts of literature in modern media. Professors Stephens and McCallum have theorized in their work *Retelling Stories, Framing Culture*, that while the retelling and inclusion of old tales assist in preserving their moral messages, the parallels also operate to integrate children into their society’s culture and the values they uphold. Considering this, the project will display this theory in action, how it manifests within *Over the Garden Wall* and what lasting themes are present. Recognizing the connections between past stories/classic literature and modern children’s media will be significant in how we decide to shape and present our future stories – centralizing on what elements of storytelling are most effective in relaying a message or concept to an audience, a message can be preserved throughout time. Thus, understanding what themes or images resonate with an audience will always be relevant, regardless of the medium and time period these concepts are displayed.

Presentation Requirements: projector for slideshow/images/videos

## Bibliography

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