



Piglet's Philosophy

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Strike A Spark

Introduction / Background

- Piglet is a character from A. A. Milne's book, *Winnie the Pooh* (1926).
- He was originally drawn wearing a green jumper, but more modern depictions show piglet wearing a magenta jumper.
- Pigs are commonly put into one of two stereotypical groups
 - The negative stereotype sees pigs as fat, lazy, and dirty.
 - The positive stereotype sees pigs as smart, lucky, and full of life.
- Pigs aren't just used for food. After death most of the pig's body can be used.
- Pigs have uses while living. Some are used for truffle hunting, and other simply kept by pet owners
- Pigs portrayed in television shows and movies, are often pink. But not all pigs are.

Research question / thesis / hypothesis

We see piglet multiple times in A.A. Milne's *Winnie the Pooh* along with the following movies and televisions shows. However, each time we see him, he never meets up with the common stereotypes assigned to pigs. Piglet even as an adult pig, is not fat or dirty. In fact, it is quite the opposite.

But Piglet doesn't fit the stereotypes of lucky or full of life. As a matter of fact, Piglet is quite scared to do many things. And rarely has anything go his way.

So then why doesn't Piglet match most of the common stereotypes of pigs, and what does that represent to the audience?

Piglet is a great character; he is similar to someone with anxiety. This is important, because most people with anxiety want to be normal. This is similar to piglet's story. Piglet is scared and worried about many things in life. But through all of that, he still tries to be a part of the group and be brave.

Evidence

Every time we see Piglet, either in movie, television shows, or books, he doesn't fit the common stereotypes.

Winnie the Pooh



Piglet in this scene is afraid of the water. He also is not lucky as his house is flooded.



This is one of the early colored illustrations of *Winnie The Pooh*

- Piglet is obviously being active here
- He is thin and short
- He doesn't look dirty
- Piglet is intelligent but isn't the smartest of the group.

Pigs on television



- Pigs in Space is one of the sketches during the production of *The Muppet Show* (1976)
- During these scenes, three pigs do a spoof of *Star Trek*.
- They are well dressed, and clean
- The crew escapes many perils
- There are parts where they slack off and show zoomorphic traits



- Porky Pig is a very well know character from *Looney Tunes* (1935).
- Both his name and appearance give the impression he is fat.
- Porky looks well dressed, and very clean acts anthropomorphic
- During many of the episodes, he is the butt of the joke, and isn't lucky.

Pigs in real life



- This pig was constructed for the Chinese New Year, for the year of the pig.(2019)



- Pigs can have very close relationships with humans.
- Their intelligence is thought to be greater than that of a dog.
- Pigs do not necessarily like being dirty, mud allows them to stay cool
- A pig's muzzle is good for rooting through the ground to find food

Conclusions

•When looking further into this question, Piglet is an extremely complex character. I believe that while piglet is a pig, he is not meant to be representing a common pig. Instead, Piglet represents a person with anxiety. People with anxiety, commonly want to be like the people around them. They want to be strong, and part of the group. I have found that Piglet is representing someone like this who feels different, and wants to fit in. This is what makes Piglet so special, he represents an entire group of people.

Works Cited

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Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Dr Aune for his guidance in thinking about my thesis.

Further information

There are even more pigs in popular stories, and programs; such as *Charlotte's web* (1952), *Peppa Pig*(2004), and *Gravity Falls*(2012).