FROZEN (2010)

You can find a description and the basic story on Wikipedia. It is classified as a horror movie, but it is realistic (not spooky like *Jeepers Creepers*, but really real) and it contains many lessons about aspects of leadership, especially self-leadership, resilience and the handling of real life-and-death crises.

The movie received 5.9/10 average reviewer rating but I would rate it 10/10. You will probably identify strongly with the characters; they are just like many of you (US Eastern, student age, skiers and boarders, tough). It is emotional, especially when the larger significance of the movie is understood.

Be warned, there are a few scenes that you (individually) might object to or prefer not to watch. When shown at Sundance festival a few of the audience feinted. They are:

(i) Dan breaks both legs really badly, with bones protruding (the others try to help by throwing him something to tie, a tourniquet)

(ii) Dan and Joe get completely eaten up by hungry wolves.

(iii) Parker totally wets herself through her ski suit when she is trapped for a day on the chair lift.

(iv) Plenty of frostbite and ripped skin.

(v) All the usual swearing and flirting

Seriously, everyone had special fears (e.g. I am claustrophobic), so if you want to opt out (not watch the movie) come and see me after this class and I have an alternative assignment for you, which is to find a few scenes from other movies that also illustrate some of the following points and lessons:

1. *situational awareness*: plan and execute personal logistics or so-called ‘hygiene’ factors carefully. The ultimate (distal) cause of the “frozen” crisis was simple: Parker forgot mum’s credit card so they couldn’t buy the three lift tickets. How do you keep your cards and a phone available when needed and safe (and charged)? This should be a high priority for everyone, especially busy executives and it requires some thought every day (Maslow’s hierarchy of needs). People suffering from mental illness often have difficulty with this aspect of life and it can be fatal.

2. *Mini-ethics*: Just don’t do naughty little smart-ass things like bribing the “lifty”. If you stuffed-up today (no cards) accept it and do it right next time. Remember that the lifty might get in trouble too.

3. *Dress for success* (or survival): What environments will you be in today and do you have suitable gear available? I have my own ski-gear totally figured: up to 4 polypropaline layers & balaclavas; helmet, knee-supports, one-piece suit plus soft-jacket, small phone in secure pouch, etc. This movie gave me the idea of also carrying a line (rope) when skiing.

4. *Human-ecology*: It is often useful to think of humans as part of nature (human-ecology). The wolves are conscious beings and they can teach us something (similarly, the land can own us even though “we” have forgotten this). The movie shows how an *alpha*-male wolf can spring into total 100% focused action (go-doggie!) and leads the pack (skill-based leadership; perhaps the only one that really counts) so the whole pack can eat well (i.e. eat Joe, unfortunately). Nature (or perhaps the Lord) giveth and taketh away: because the wolves have eaten Joe, they later knowingly let Parker go free; they give her a “pass” and she is OK. This is not just luck: the wolves understand the whole situation and they are not greedy.

5. *The evolution of death*. Death is always lurking, so live consciously and with integrity while you can, every day.

6. *Pain and discomfort,* physical or mental, no matter how severe, can be borne. Eventually it will pass.

7. *RRMF* There comes a point where you have to act decisively, take the initiative, estimate the risks and do what you can to avoid them. For example, if you jump from more than 10’ make sure the landing area is soft.

8. *Unintended consequences* of any action can be good or bad, often a mixture. When Joe went up on the cable, he accidentally dislodged the chair bracket-bolt. Whoever would have thought that this would not harm Parker, but actually save her?

9. *Collective consciousness and premonition*. Just when you think things can’t get any worse they sometimes do; but then something eventually happens that resolves the situation. What impressed me most about the movie was the scene where Parker is alone on the chair and the director creates the feeling in the audience that something big is about to happen. When you are in a Parker-like situation, be patient and you yourself will eventually get that feeling too; then something good really will happen. This good premonition perhaps represents the collective consciousness.

10. *You will all be OK*