

## Turn in Assignment for Chapter 7 - Mastering Your Genre

What is successful about *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*? The writer Charlie Kaufman took two opposite genres; sci-fi thriller and romantic comedy, and married them together. The result was one of intrigue and heartbreak and became one of the most successful movies of the early 2000's. He took familiar tropes from both genres and put them in an arena that you don't see that often.

Name three famous remakes that are not thought of as remakes. *Maltese Falcon*, 1941, John Carpenter's, *The Thing* 1982, and the most famous *The Magnificent Seven*, 1960.

What is the key to good genre mashing? *Kill Bill* by Quentin Tarantino for example is a great example because although it combines many genres such as spaghetti western, samurai, and action yet there is a cohesiveness that ties everything together and makes it work by using the genre tropes and female empowerment.

Come up with your own "genre-mashing" idea, and write a one page synopsis for it.

I have an idea for mashing science fiction with a documentary.

The story is about a young handicapped boy that discovers he has special powers. Brandon is a teenager with an incurable disease that has made him unable to walk and therefore by an early age had to use a wheelchair. He is intelligent and does well in school and has an incredible memory. He was abandoned by his birth Mom and raised by his father. His father shows his love for him by trying to provide him as normal life as he can and include him socially with events at school, summer camps, activities with his friends etc. But when his Dad becomes frustrated with the reality that he just cannot fit it with the usual events that create a real challenge with a handicapped person, his son reveals a secret - He has magical powers! While putting him to bed one night, Brandon tells his Dad that he is able to do many extraordinary things - such as leave his body and transport himself anywhere in the world, memorize books and videos by simply putting his head up against it, communicating telepathically with dogs and other animals, and even bringing good fortune. His Dad is in disbelief until his son shows him proof. His son travels to Japan that night in his sleep because he loves video games. In the morning when his caretaker is getting him ready to school, he begins speaking Japanese and tells of his stories of seeing Mt. Fuji and Buddhist temples etc. Other miraculous things start to happen; his Dad's old car is breaking down and his son overhears him wishing for a new car. When his Dad returns home from work a delivery truck pulls up at their house and knocks on the door asking for him and says he has the new Jeep he ordered. When he said he did not order it, the driver insisted it was already paid for! His son also proves that he can communicate with his dog when he starts to get in a fight with the neighbors dog and he looks at him and tells him to behave, his dog turns around and walks up to Brandon and licks him. Ultimately his powers are put to the test because there is a gang fight in his school causing trouble when one of his best friends get stabbed and is rushed to the hospital. Brandon appears out of nowhere to

confront the two gangs who are getting ready to have a dangerous fight outside their school. They are so shocked to see him (in a luminous body hovering above them ) that they drop their weapons. When the school principal finds out this story he makes the announcement to the school body and they throw a celebration for him in the school auditorium and loud cheers honoring him as a superhero!