

# Monsters Inc. Ethics Essay

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EDD PLTW

Mrs. Snyder

19 March 2019

The movie *Monsters, Inc.*, directed by Pete Docter was intended for a young audience but includes many ethical issues that adults are confronted with. Monsters Incorporated is a scream factory in the Monster world and the childrens screams produce energy. Sully and Mike Wazowski are the main protagonist, they are the “best” scarers at the company, but they are even being challenged with getting enough energy from scares because the children are being desensitized from TV and video games. The main ethical dilemma is that Mr. Waterhouse and Randall, another top scarer, are in the process of creating a machine that extracts screams from children. Mr. Waterhouse also comes up with an elaborate lie that any physical contact with humans or humans belongings is deadly to the monsters. This lie is made so the monsters don't feel bad for the aggressive actions they commit on the children. Although the lie had worked for a long time, when Boo, a child, escaped from her door, it caused the monster world to panic.

The ethical issues involved with the scream factory for the most part were not illegal, just unfair. Mr. Waterhouse intentions were good, without the companies success the monsters would have been left without power, along with major economic downfall. The illegal unethical issue that occurred was the creation of the machine that extracted screams from young children. Firstly, to get the children into the machine they would have to be kidnapped from their door. The children were also being forced against their will to be strapped in to a chair while the extractor was connected to the children's face. The legal ethical issues faced were that the monsters were being lied to and Mr. Waterhouse was holding back viable information that could have possibly avoided the entire situation that got him into problems.

The CEO of Monsters Incorporated had a wide variety of other forms of getting energy. In the movie we see that after the scandal came to light and Mr. Waterhouse was sent to jail,

Sully and Mike reopen the factory. This time instead of getting energy from children's screams, Mike was a comedian and they would get energy from making children laugh. Along with making kids laugh rather than scream, children's laughs produced ten times more energy. This being said, Mr. Waterhouse could have used this method or others such as keeping kids entertained, making children excited or other involuntary human responses. Mr. Waterhouse could have also avoided having to use the scream extracting machine if he had told the monsters that the company was in downfall and that if they did not get better results, the factory would have to close down and leave the monster world without energy. The lie of physical contact with humans or human belongings could have also been avoided if the factory acquired energy from other forms of children's reactions other than screaming. At the end of the movie, monsters were loved by the children and the factory was doing better than it was before and was not confronted with ethical dilemmas.

I think Sully's and Mike's decision to "blow the whistle" and expose the unethical behavior of Mr. Waterhouse was crucial and the right thing to do. Initially they believed that it would have a bad outcome; leaving the entire monster world without energy, but they came out successful. Mike and Sully listened to their gut and did what was right. It was unethical of Mr. Waterhouse to lie to his workers and it was unethical to secretly experiment with a scream extracting machine. If the experiment wasn't shut down by Sully and Mike, many children would have been kidnapped from their rooms and have screams extracted against their will, leaving permanent psychological damage.

Bibliography:

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