

The Psychology of Fairly OddParents

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A whole collection of analyses of episodes and characters off the beloved FOP. So far I have looked into a second meaning of 'Vicky Loses Her Icky' (a little off topic, but I have no life) and a psychological analysis of Vicky. Yes, Vicky. I'll be su

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1 - Introduction

Intro

This is where I take my highly odd imagination and mix it with my lack of an actual life. I shall be delving into apparent 'second meanings to episodes' and (later on) I'll be looking into why Vicky acts the way she does.

But remember- the whole cartoon is just that- a cartoon. There is no way any of this is probably true so just take the whole show at face value- lest you end up like me.

If you are interested in any particular character, just send me a comment and say which one (I expecting that requests for Cosmo analyses are going to be among the majority) and if you want any particular episode, I'll see what I can do- but I haven't seen them all.

The thing that got me hooked to FOP, like so many other fangirls, is firstly because I fell in love with Timmy, Chip Skylark, Vicky and Crocker; plus the music, humour and Jorgen. But after seeing a whole bunch of episodes I started watching re-runs of a couple of episodes and looked a little closer. It took me a little while before I realised that the whole cartoon was about a little boy whose parents, although they loved him very much, weren't very negligent half the time and left him with an incredibly abusive teenager while they went out. The little boy, after becoming angry and frustrated, was blessed with understanding, caring fairy godparents who proceeded to protect him from the abuse, or at least make it a whole lot easier to deal with.

It took a while, but it hit me like a brick. Whether or not the whole thing was intentional, the whole cartoon was a sort of NSPCC advert cleverly disguised as a very good television show.

I've said it once, and I'll say it again though- the whole thing probably isn't intentional. Instead of being a watered down story of abuse, it is probably a great exaggeration of normal living- I mean who hasn't had an unfair babysitter at some time in their life?

So yeah, I'm probably too morbid, but I still think the whole 'extra thread' is interesting anyway.

Oh, and before you start, did you know that Wand was originally going to be called Venus? And the whole show was almost not going to include her at all- having it just being about Timmy and Cosmo as a male parody of Cinderella, I got that info off an interview in a magazine!

2 - Vicky Loses Her Icky

The Psychology of `Vicky Loses Her Icky'

Hello, welcome to the first chapter of `The Psychology of FOP series. In this chapter, I shall be having a highly in depth (and certainly inaccurate) look at the much loved episode `Vicky Loses Her Icky'.

In the episode `Vicky Loses her Icky' Timmy wishes that Vicky was nice. Once in effect, the wish forced an evil beetle-shaped force of all that is cruel out of her arse, instantly transforming her into a Butch Hartman version of Snow White. The insect, however, searched for another home. It resided in Timmy Turner's father until it got close enough to Principal Waxelplax and, in turn, the President of the US. It only ended when Vicky sacrificed her newfound kindness and jumped in front of the insect- once again becoming evil once more.

I realise that I am looking much too deeply into this particular episode, but this whole episode seemed like one big metaphor. So, just for a while, restrain from taking this episode at face value and look closer. Strip the cartoon down to it's main elements and you get this:

A feeling of discourse leaves Vicky and enters Timmy's Dad, which in turn enters Principal Waxelplax and then the President. When Vicky claims the feeling back, everything returns to the beginning.

So, it's as though Vicky left Timmy's father feeling cruel and heartless, who left the other people down the line feeling the same, like a cycle of abuse (except those at the beginning went back to their normal selves). I don't know enough about psychology to know whether having Vicky `take responsibility' for her actions and past grievances (shown by her jumping in front of the insect as it went for the President) left the other three feeling validated, but it could certainly effect the others in a positive way.

So, to my over-evaluating mind, this whole episode was about the abuse cycle- how one person's aggressive nature can instil the same emotions of anger in the people they affect. In effect, everyone in this episode (except, perhaps, the butt-bug) was a victim of each other. It was only when Vicky actually dealt with the creature that the cycle stopped.

Yeah, okay, Mr. Hartman probably didn't even consider the whole apparent second-meaning to this episode, because only people with absolutely no lives think about these kind of things in regards to innocent cartoons (but COME ON, the whole freakin' cartoon is an obvious take on child neglect).

And don't even get me started on the whole `Father's Day' thing.

****Shudder****.

3 - VICKY

The Psychology of Vicky

Abandon hope all ye who enter...

Everybody who has seen Fairly OddParents knows Vicky. Even Chip Skylark's song 'Icky Vicky' (which is not about pumpkins) calls her a 'fire-breathing dragon in a pair of black jeans'. She's evil, manipulative and thrives on money and children's misery.

However, is this really her fault?

Vicky has always been among my favourite characters (it goes Timmy, Wanda, Mr. Crocker and then Vicky herself, if anyone's interested) because she was such an interesting person. Not so much an enigma, but interesting nonetheless.

She's so fascinating because of one thing- what made her so mean? People aren't born cruel- I've yet to see an evil baby or a toddler leading an army- have you? (Napoleon doesn't count- he was just short.)

I thought for while and finally came up with this: It's her parents' fault. You may not believe me, but it's true.

While you read this, just ignore episodes like 'Vicky Loses Her Icky' and others that say she was born evil- just pretend that this is a real situation (I am perfectly aware that the creators of the cartoon are always right- this is just a hobby of mine).

Her parents are completely spineless and never punish their eldest daughter, right? They've probably been this way ever since Vicky was a little girl. Imagine that you're about five years old. You accidentally drop, say, a milk bottle on the floor and it smashes. Your parents quietly clean it up and nothing more is said. They don't tell you to be careful, they just silently clean the kitchen floor and leave. Nonplussed, you continue your day. A while later (it could be hours or days away) another accident occurs, like you traipse mud through the lounge after coming inside from a rainy day. You look behind you and know that you've done something wrong. You wait for your parents to either tell you off or at least explain that you've broken a rule, but instead your mother or father (I'm not going to be sexist) cleans it up without a word.

This whole scenario could (and in this case, would) continue for years, and each time you would get a little more worried- not matter what you do, your parents don't react. This means that you could do anything and nothing would matter. Now, this is a terrifying thought for any child- if nothing you do affects your parents, how do you know whether you've done something wrong, unless you know yourself? And there's always that part of you that thinks 'why don't they care enough to stop me?'.

You may be thinking as you read this, "Ha! No kid thinks like that!" Okay, kids may not think that in

words, but the feeling is definitely there. Boundaries are a form of love, and show the child that the parents care about them enough to pay attention to them,. So if a parent doesn't set boundaries, they deprive their children of one form of love.

Right, get back into the daydream. You're about ten and, through many attempts to get your parents to react, you've become known as a 'trouble kid'. You bully other children to get a reaction from teachers and maybe to take out your fear and utter frustration on somebody else. By this time you may feel resentful of your parents and view them as 'weak'. You may get told off by teachers, but when they send home letters to your parents guess what? Nothing happens. If anything, it drives your parents into an even worse state of mind- they may feel that if they say anything to you, you'll only become more rebellious and maybe even hate them.

It's a vicious circle. The more you push at the non-existent boundaries, the more your parents are afraid to enforce them, which in turn makes you push at them more... it's never ending. And as a child, you won't know how to sit down and tell your parents about the problem because you may not even realise it yourself.

Say, now, that you're fourteen. Your parents, because you're a villain in a comic strip, have become truly afraid of you because at a point in time you've turned on them in a desperate attempt to 'feel solid ground' as it were. You're no longer known as a 'trouble child' but as a 'completely out of control' teen. This isn't your fault, you just desperately want someone to tell you to stop. And it can't just come from anyone, it has to come from your parents.

One day, one of your attempts earns you money. Maybe another bully at school paid you to beat up a child for you or something. You get an allowance anyway, but now you can buy something a little bit bigger.

You buy something with the money and, for the sake of argument, let's say it's a huge bag of makeup. Being an inanimate object, it doesn't have a mind. This means that it doesn't think you're horrible and isn't afraid or angry at you. You feel safe knowing that, as an item, you are firstly, better than it, and, secondly, you don't have to intimidate it to gain its respect.

Yeah, once again this sounds incredibly stupid. You wouldn't necessarily think it out loud, but the feelings are in there. Seriously, deep down it's a gratifying thought.

This whole scenario goes on for a while- you get money for performing various 'dirty' tasks (and by dirty I mean violent). The people you are cruel to in order to get paid may threaten to tell a teacher or other powerful authority, but brute intimidation shuts them up quickly. Then somehow, your attention is turned to babysitting. I think you can guess the rest.

So you see- Vicky isn't incredibly evil, just frightened and very, very angry at everybody. You see? It took me a whole hour (maybe longer) to explain Vicky's situation (that's longer than a whole double episode). That's a lot of typing.

Maybe she deserves to be pitied rather than hated, what do you think? And did she really deserve a song about her?