

### “Summer Wars” Response

“Summer Wars” was a fantastic piece by director Mamoru Hosoda. I have seen previous works that Hosoda also directed, and each one has been done spectacularly as “Summer Wars”. Mamoru Hosoda has a certain magic touch when it comes to directing how his vision of a film should go. The story that ends up being shown on screen is so enrapturing that anyone watching just cannot help but fall in love with his films. And to top it all off, the consistent animation style that is signature to Hosoda’s films is very aesthetically pleasing and certainly aid in pulling in the viewer into the world of the film.

All throughout the film we see the theme of technology and the human connection to it. The prevalence of technology is there even at the very beginning. The main character Kenji and his classmate are working part time for OZ after the introduction of the world of OZ, and all the way to the end of the movie technology play a major role in all the character’s lives. Every Jinnouchi family member, save for Grandmother Sakae, has an OZ account and use them in various ways, such as conference calling one another while they are driving.

This concept is very relatable to our current times. Practically everyone nowadays is constantly on their phone or computer preoccupying themselves with this and that. Posting pictures and selfies onto instagram, catching up with family members on Facebook, using Google Maps to navigate through horrible traffic, the list goes on. Much like what is seen in “Summer Wars”, we have come to use technology so much that we are almost lost without it. “Summer Wars” also leaves us with the message that although it is nice to be able to instantly message a friend, nothing can beat the personal connections of relationships face to face.

At the very end of the movie, it is not until the AI program is defeated and the satellite situation has been taken care of that the family really comes together. The destruction of technology, seen with the satellite, is how relationships will flourish. At the finale the Jinnouchi family has gathered together and is in the process of joyously celebrating Sakae's birthday, and her passing. The happy feelings emanating from this scene is certainly the kind that you cannot relate with solely through seeing a post made on social media. With how beautiful the animation and the story were in "Summer Wars", this film gets a five out of five from me.