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Assignment 2: Paglalatag ng Paksa, Suliranin, Layunin, at Katanungan

First Topic:

#BehindTheScene: Cinema as a Medium for Cultural Education in the Reintroduction of Filipino Folklore to Modern Audiences in *Ang Huling Palabas*

Ang Huling Palabas is a coming-of-age film set in a small rural town in the Philippines, where a young boy grapples with family issues, personal identity, and the supernatural. The film weaves local folklore and mysticism into its narrative, using Filipino myths to add depth to the protagonist's journey and struggles. Through its atmospheric storytelling and symbolic imagery, *Ang Huling Palabas* explores the blending of everyday life with traditional beliefs, showcasing how folklore shapes cultural understanding. The film emphasizes the importance of preserving Filipino heritage by connecting modern audiences to the richness of ancestral narratives and rural life. The objective of this study is to examine how *Ang Huling Palabas* uses cinematic elements to reintroduce Filipino folklore as a tool for cultural education, promoting cultural awareness and reinforcing national identity among modern audiences.

Research Questions:

1. How does *Ang Huling Palabas* utilize cinematic techniques to present Filipino folklore in a way that engages modern audiences?
2. What specific elements of Filipino folklore are depicted in *Ang Huling Palabas*, and how are they contextualized for contemporary viewers?
3. How do the visual and narrative techniques in *Ang Huling Palabas* contribute to a deeper understanding of Filipino cultural heritage among viewers?

Objectives:

1. To assess how the film contributes to cultural education by making Filipino folklore accessible and engaging for contemporary viewers.
2. To examine the role of folklore in the film as a means of promoting cultural awareness and understanding of Filipino heritage.
3. To assess how *Ang Huling Palabas* fosters a sense of national identity through the portrayal of traditional Filipino myths and beliefs.
4. To examine the specific folklore elements depicted in the film and their relevance to current social and cultural contexts.

Second Topic:

Empowerment and Morality: Deconstructing Gender Roles and Modern Women

Representation in *A Very Good Girl* of Petersen Vargas

A Very Good Girl is a 2023 modern Filipino film by Petersen Vargas that challenges traditional gender roles and highlights complex representations of female empowerment and morality. Through its lead characters, the story explores power dynamics and social expectations, portraying women who assert their autonomy and navigate moral dilemmas in a society often defined by rigid norms. By deconstructing stereotypes and redefining femininity, *A Very Good Girl* reflects the evolving roles of women in contemporary Filipino culture. The objective of this study is to analyze how the film uses narrative and visual elements to deconstruct gender roles and present nuanced representations of modern Filipino women.

Research Questions:

1. How does *A Very Good Girl* contribute to the discourse on female autonomy and agency in the context of Filipino cinema?
2. What power dynamics are depicted in *A Very Good Girl*, and how do they reflect the evolving role of women in modern Filipino culture?
3. In what ways does the film's representation of women challenge societal expectations and norms related to gender and morality?

Objectives:

1. To assess how *A Very Good Girl* deconstructs stereotypes of femininity and presents more complex representations of women in contemporary Filipino society.
2. To analyze how *A Very Good Girl* challenges traditional gender roles through its portrayal of the lead female characters.
3. To assess how power dynamics within the film reflect the evolving role of women in Filipino culture.
4. To analyze how *A Very Good Girl* contributes to the discussion on female autonomy, agency, and societal expectations in modern Filipino cinema.