

Selena

Selena Quintanilla-Perez, was a talented Mexican-American singer who was on the top of her career when it was cut-short by an untimely death. She appeared sexy on stage, however she had high morals and had provided girls role models. Abraham Quintanilla Jr. is Selena's father. He is a musician at heart. He is a disciplinarian and a believer of adhering to family values and morality. He is a loving and hard-working father who is intent on driving his children to succeed in the field of music. Chris Perez is a guitarist and a lover of music. He became Selena's boyfriend then later on husband. He has proven himself a good person that makes him worthy of being Selena's husband. Marcela Quintanilla is Selena's mother who has committed her life in supporting her husband and children. A.B. (short for Abraham) Quintanilla is Selena's brother who has strived to be the best in songwriting so as to support Selena's rise to stardom. Like the rest of Abraham's children, A.B. has grown to abide by the rules and examples set by his parents and has shown dedication in his work. Abie and Suzetter are Selena's sisters who are also members of the band. One of them has played the drum. Yolanda Zaldivar was Selena's number one and business associates. She is characterized as being a person with shady character. She became obsessed with money that in turn made her kill Selena at the end.

The movie started showing Selena the child, whose talent in singing was discovered by the father himself in the Texas setting. That became the starting event in the story. Selena became the soloist in the band named "Selena y Los Dinos". The succeeding events are that of the family's struggle to pursue the goal or the dream of making it in the music industry. Selena and the band made their first recordings in 1975. While on the road towards their goal, the whole family stick together and bear the hardships along the way. Abraham Quintanilla propelled the helm to their destinations, while trustingly children and wife followed forth. He

showed strength along the process. The movie also depicted Abraham's reaction to the changes that the music world has gone through. He has stood his ground amidst the temptations surrounding the show business. He has been able to manage his family through the values that he and his wife instilled among the children. Selena, the focal point in the story turned into a very magnificent talented performer. Along her career and despite her father's initial objection, she fell in love with his brother A.B.'s guitarist friend, Chris Perez and who later on became her husband. The whole family, with Chris has moved on touring from place to place. Selena has become popular through the EMI recording. On the point of stardom, Yolanda Zaldivar became Selena's number one fan, heading her fan club. Convinced of her loyalty, Selena trustingly appointed Yolanda as her associate in the newly founded line of business the "Selena etc." that features Selena's lines of clothes. Selena started climbing the top of her career. She received a double Platinum award for the "Selena live" and quadruple Platinum award for the "Amor Prohibido" music. She also won the Grammy for best Mexican – American album. The culmination of her success was shown in her concert performance at the Houston Astrodome before 61,000 fans: a record – breaking number. However, her success was cut short when she was shot at her back by her associate, Yolanda Zaldivar. Zaldivar's cover was already discovered by the family. Zaldivar embezzled money of the fan club and made questionable transactions in behalf of Selena's business. In the hope that Zaldivar could prove her innocence, Selena met Zaldivar at the request of the latter only to be murdered at the end.

In an analysis, the story line deals mostly with the artist and her work. The progress of Selena's singing career serves as the focal point of the story. Through it, the dynamic character of Selena has been depicted. It has made possible the portrayal of Selena's love for music as well as the fusion of the music and the artist into one. The artist shows how she becomes one

with the music, how music flows through her. The story line shows how the music is able to lift the spirit of the artist. The beauty of the music as an art has emerged and has touched the hearts and soul of the viewer. It allows the audience to participate in the overwhelming feelings of the main character.

The film has authentically depicted the life, the music, the exact scene and many of the details in the film “Selena”. One could almost forget that it is Jennifer Lopez who is just portraying Selena. In other words the audience sees Selena and not Jennifer Lopez while viewing the film. The actors and actresses who have played their parts have gone beyond their own selves into the characters they are portraying especially the main character. Moreover, as this is a film portraying a not so recent event, the settings, sets, locations, environs among others are realistically depicted.

The minor roles of the secondary characters in the film have concretized the theme of the movie. The theme of the movie is about family values: the love that brings joy, the bond that unites, the respect that paves for individuality, the long suffering that strengthens, and the hope that leads to inspire for something better or more than better and others. The presence of Selena’s father, mother, brother and sisters throughout her whole short life indeed contributed to this very theme on family values.

The experience of analyzing this film has made me more sensitive and empathetic to the joys, the travails and the pains of human life. Hence, watching the film opens up my mind to the following realities: the frailties of life, the transience of the things on earth, as well as the wickedness of man. This realization has enhanced my understanding of the importance for studying the Humanities and for knowing how one ought to live his life to the fullest while still living. It means that one has to be rational and creative so as to become worthy of being human.

Being rational means having the qualities brought by the intellect and the will. Like Abraham, he has the intellect that tends towards truth. For him, the truth of being a man and a father is to take care of his family - to nurture and develop his children among others. Like Selena, she has the will that tends towards good. For her, the music and arts are good, and so she had this artistic creativity in expressing herself through music.

Selena in her goodness had also looked for the goodness in others: that was her individuality. Furthermore, her individual being dictated her to assert her freedom: as such she devised means to be independent. However, this meant being exposed to the other elements outside the protective cloak of her family and of her father. This cost her to lose her life at the end. That is one tragedy of individuality.