

Emily Phillips

Prof. Moulton

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Bluey: The Best Show of Our Time

Bluey is an Australian children's TV show that has won fans for its unique storytelling, relatable characters, and cultural authenticity. What makes *Bluey* special compared to other children's shows is its storytelling, animation style, cultural representation, and educational value. *Bluey* explores different friendships and relationships. The show uses imaginative play and role playing to help children problem solve and promote emotional development. Parents can relate to the many scenes shown that depict realistic parenting struggles and proper ways to manage them. *Bluey* has become the best children's show of our time for kids and parents.

Bluey follows the adventures of a six-year-old Blue Heeler puppy and her family. The show is praised for its realistic take on family life and childhood experiences, emphasizing imaginative play, family bonding, and social-emotional learning. Kathryn VanArendonk, writing for Vulture, writes "So it's fitting that *Bluey* achieves an unusual feat for children's programming: a true double-vision viewing experience for parents and children watching together." and highlights how *Bluey* combines humor with heartfelt moments, making it appealing to both kids and parents. This approach sets it apart from shows like *Peppa Pig* or *Paw Patrol*, which focus more on episodic adventures and problem-solving but often miss the deeper emotional and familial themes present in *Bluey*.

The vibrant and detailed animations found in *Bluey* stand out, capturing the touches of Australian suburban life. Cameron Williams, in "TOP DOGS: The ABC's *Bluey* and Australian

Children's Animation," notes that Ludo Studio's emphasis on high production values and attention to detail significantly contributes to the show's visual appeal. In contrast, while shows like *Dora the Explorer* and *Caillou* have their unique animation styles, they often prioritize educational content over animation.

Bluey deeply embeds Australian culture, setting it apart from many globally popular children's shows that often have a more generic or Americanized setting. Olivia Khoo, in "NOT KIDDING AROUND: Australian-Asian Children's Television Co-productions," points out that *Bluey* authentically portrays Australian lifestyles, including the landscape, accents, and social norms. Because the show is so culturally specific it offers international audiences a glimpse into Australian life, much like *Mouk*, a French animated series that introduces children to various cultures. However, *Bluey* focuses on everyday family dynamics rather than exploring different cultures, providing a more localized but very enriching viewing experience.

Bluey excels in educational content by embedding lessons in play and family interactions. Each episode often concludes with a subtle moral or lesson, emphasizing empathy, resilience, and creativity. Williams, in "Shifting Sands: Kangaroo Beach and Australian Children's TV," argues that Australian children's shows like *Bluey* and *Kangaroo Beach* seamlessly integrate educational elements into their narratives. On the contrary, shows like *Sesame Street* or *Blue's Clues* are more obvious in their educational goals, often using direct instruction and repetition to teach concepts like numbers, letters, and problem-solving skills.

Compared to other popular children's shows, *Bluey* offers a blend of cultural richness, narrative depth, and educational value that is often less direct than other children's shows. For example, *Peppa Pig* provides simple stories with clear lessons but lacks the emotional depth of *Bluey*. Mark Serrels in "Why Bluey Is the Best Children's TV Show on the Planet" writes "It has

lessons to teach but never patronizes or oversteps the mark. It's perfectly balanced and endlessly rewatchable. There's never been a kid's show like *Bluey*, almost every episode is operating at the level of a high quality Pixar short.” Similarly, while *Paw Patrol* and *Blues Clues* focus heavily on problem-solving and interactive learning, they do not dig as deeply into family dynamics and social interactions as *Bluey* does.

Bluey intricately explores themes of friendship and relationships through its engaging storytelling and relatable characters. Each episode often centers around *Bluey* and her interactions with friends and family, emphasizing the importance of social skills, empathy, and cooperation. Friendship is portrayed as a vital part of childhood development. Episodes such as “Butterflies” and “Shadowlands” focus on Bluey's interactions with her friends, showing how they navigate challenges, resolve conflicts, and develop mutual understanding. The show highlights the value of teamwork, compromise, and supporting each other ““Cafe” is an episode in which Bluey plays café with a new friend, but it is actually seven exquisite minutes on the difficulty of making friends as an adult. In “Grandad,” Chilli chides the girls about taking care of their bodies so they can grow healthy and strong, but the story takes a swift left turn into Chilli’s concern about her own aging father.”, as noted by VanArendonk in *Vulture*, who emphasizes how the show's realistic portrayal of friendships helps children understand and value these relationships.

The family dynamics in *Bluey* are central to the show’s appeal. The interactions between Bluey, her sister Bingo, and their parents, Bandit and Chilli, provide an example of healthy family relationships. Williams, in "TOP DOGS: The ABC's Bluey and Australian Children's Animation," writes “This animated ABC series about a lovable, lively little pup and her family of cattle dogs has won hearts across the country—and will soon be making its way to screens

around the world. With its endearing, reusable plotlines and vivid depictions of the Australian landscape, *Bluey* demonstrates its chops as a program that is more than just a 'kids show'." Pointing out that the show's examples of family life are both realistic and aspirational, offering lessons in patience, love, and mutual respect. Episodes like "Grannies" and "Takeaway" depict everyday scenarios where family members support each other, resolve disputes, and enjoy shared activities, reinforcing the importance of family bonding. Imaginative play is also a key element in family bonding in *Bluey*. Episodes such as "Keepy Uppy" and "Pirates" involve the entire family in creative play, highlighting the importance of shared activities in strengthening family relationships. Williams, in "Australia Unfiltered: Local Shows Get Their Moment in the Sun," emphasizes how these shared imaginative experiences provide a model for families to engage in meaningful and fun interactions.

Social-emotional learning is used in *Bluey* by showcasing how characters manage their emotions and develop social skills. Khoo explains how the show incorporates these elements subtly into the show. For example, episodes like "Calypso" and "Yoga Ball" show how Bluey and her friends learn to express their feelings, understand others' perspectives, and build emotional resilience. *Bluey* uses imaginative play not just for entertainment but also as a tool for social-emotional learning. By involving lessons in the form of play, the show teaches children about emotions, relationships, and social norms.

Children prefer to watch shows or movies over and over. They like to watch repetitive "cute" shows that aren't usually appealing to adults. Serrels writes "Kids have terrible taste in everything. And, if given the opportunity, tend to watch the same thing – over and over – until every frame is emblazoned like TV burn-in, directly on their hippocampus. I know. I've been here. Friends, I have suffered." And Serrels goes on to describe how *Bluey* has changed his life

for the better and even watches the show while his kids are at school. His statement is very relatable for any parent who finds themselves passing the time watching children's shows with their kids hoping for something with less repetition and a more meaningful story.

Episodes such as "Magic Xylophone" and "Hospital" show Bluey and her friends role-playing games that allow them to explore different roles and scenarios. This not only promotes their creativity but also helps them understand different perspectives and develop empathy. VanArendonk in *Vulture* tells how these episodes mirror the natural play patterns of children, making the show both entertaining and educational. In episodes like "Grannies" and "The Creek," Bluey and her friends use imaginative play to overcome challenges and achieve goals. These scenarios encourage problem-solving and teamwork among the characters. Williams, in "TOP DOGS: The ABC's Bluey and Australian Children's Animation," notes that the show's approach to problem-solving through play fosters important social skills and resilience in children.

The show *Bluey* excels in using imaginative play to create engaging, educational, and culturally rich narratives. Through role-playing, problem-solving, and family bonding, the show provides children with valuable lessons in creativity, empathy, and social skills, all within the framework of fun and relatable stories. The show also sets a high standard for children's television through its amazing storytelling, great production quality, and educational content. Its ability to resonate with both children and adults while providing a window into Australian culture makes it a standout in children's shows. Shows like *Peppa Pig*, *Paw Patrol*, and *Sesame Street* each have their own strengths, but *Bluey* combines these elements in a way that is relatable and diverse.

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