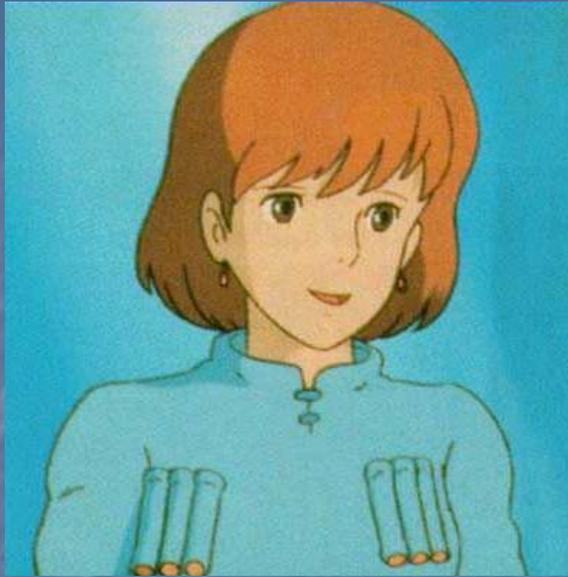


Depiction of Females in Miyazaki Films

Nausicaa

From
*Nausicaa and
the Valley of
the Wind*



San

From *Princess
Mononoke*



Chihiro/Sen

From
Spirited Away

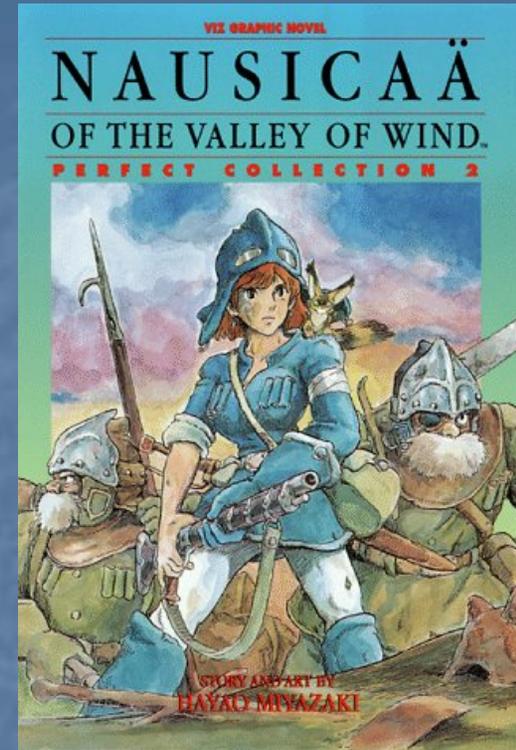


Sheeta

From *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*

Nausicaa

One of the older girls in Miyazaki's movies.



- More curves in body
- Taller
- More confident
- Strength also shown through heavier body (video clip)





-Longer face also shows age



San

Also one of the older girls
-Much more active and
animal-like (video clip)
-Shows through slimmer
body



Sheeta

The youngest girl in the group.

- Hairstyle conveys youth
- Rounder face



Sheeta

- Head large compared to body
- Growing up symbolized by loss of pigtails

Body and head almost same size



Shorter hair is more mature than pigtails

Chihiro/Sen

- Facial features different than rest of the girls.
- Not quite as attractive (goes along with theme of her not fitting in)
- Also lanky and gangly to show her clumsiness and awkwardness (video clip)





To wrap things up...

Why does Miyazaki focus on female leads?

- Growing up for females much more subtle (Less obvious rites of passage than males)
- Sheeta encounters the corruption of man and fulfills her responsibility in protecting Laputa from such corrupt men.
- Nausicaa holds true to her peaceful ways and triumphs over hate, violence and war.
- San realizes that hate is not the way to heal wounds, and helps the forest to its rebirth.
- Chihiro/Sen learns to seize the day, to stand up for herself and realizes that life isn't so boring after all.

