

Title: 2001: A Space Odyssey

Director: Stanley Kubrick

Text type: Film

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I felt very uneasy and discomfoted when HAL, the artificial intelligence that runs most of the operations on the *Discovery* space ship, turned against its own crew. This shows that humans are at a point where they have seemingly lost control of their own creations. Throughout the film, human civilisation is shown to be completely reliant on technology. They have become so reliant on technology that they entrust a computer to look after almost all of their operations on the *Discovery*. In space, we see that men have to learn to walk awkwardly on Velcro carpeting to move from room to room. They have to drink liquids in stored packages to be able to supplement themselves. The

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master of Earth is like a baby in space. So when HAL turned on the humans, it made me realise how truly vulnerable we are because of this dependence on machines and technology to do things for us. What discomfoted me even more was the fact that when HAL betrayed the crew, he seemed more human than any of the other characters in the film. He expresses feelings of fear, one of the strongest emotions any person can feel. HAL's human-like behaviour is heavily contrasted with the

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other human characters. For example, when Dr. Floyd video-calls his daughter for her birthday, their conversation seems almost apathetic. The way that HAL is shown to be more human than the crew worries me because it makes me believe that if our love of technological advancement causes us to rely too much on our own tools, our own creations could essentially replace us. This film showed me

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that we are a very fast-growing civilisation, especially when we look at how much our technology has grown in the past 40 years. In the late 1960's it would have seemed impossible that we could store hundreds of songs, movies and other data on a device no bigger than a book, but today it is typical.

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But the film also showed me that, like all great things, we will eventually end. It made me question how long we have until we reach that point, and whether it is our own doing that will cause our end.