

# The Last Airbender

## Study Notes



**Directed by:** M. Night Shyamalan  
**Certificate:** PG (contains moderate fantasy violence)  
**Running time:** 103 mins  
**Release date:** 13 August 2010

### Synopsis

Air, Water, Earth, Fire. Four nations tied by destiny when the Fire Nation launches a brutal war against the others. A century has passed with no hope in sight to change the path of this destruction. Caught between combat and courage, Aang discovers he is the lone Avatar with the power to manipulate all four elements. Aang teams with Katara, a Waterbender, and her brother, Sokka, to restore balance to their war-torn world.

## Before seeing the film

1. Look at the film's poster or official website. What genre of story is *The Last Airbender*? What clues are there? Make lists of other films you know that are in the same genre. List the features that they have in common. Do any of these films contain characteristics of more than one genre?
2. Watch the film trailer online. Discuss the different filmmaking techniques that help create a story like this e.g. special effects, music, costume. Remember these things when you watch the film in preparation for writing a film review afterwards.
3. Design a flag for each of the four nations. Choose colours carefully and include a symbol to represent each of the four elements – air, water, earth and fire.

## After seeing the film

1. The world of *The Last Airbender* (and the animated series it is based on) is influenced by Asian art and mythology. Research these subjects using books and the internet and look for images and stories that you think the filmmakers got some of their ideas from.
2. There are many different settings in the film the Water Tribes, Air Temple, Earth Kingdom villages, Fire Nation ships and the spirit world.
  - How did the mood and atmosphere change between each setting? Discuss how the settings affected the characters
  - Choose one setting and an appropriate art technique to create your own scene
3. The film's official website describes the four nations like this:
  - The Air Nomads are a peaceful order of men and women that are in harmony with the winds of nature
  - Water is the element of change and Water Tribe go with the flow to adapt to different situations
  - Earthbenders are rooted in their pride and strength and are rock-solid in their resolve
  - Fire is the element of power and Firebenders have the burning drive to get what they wantWhich element are you? Think about your personality and decide which nation you would belong to. Choose any words from the list below that you feel describe you and decide which element you think these words belong to. You can help your classmates decide which words best describe them too.

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|--------------|--------------|
| ■ proud      | ■ strong     |
| ■ easy going | ■ kind       |
| ■ stubborn   | ■ determined |
| ■ calm       | ■ brave      |

*Written by: Matthew Poyton*