

**ASIA 2512: Explorations of Japanese Animation
Response Writing #2**

Why does Miyazaki's animation fly?

The majority of the action in *Laputa: Castle in the Sky* takes place . . . in the sky. It begins there and ends there. After Sheeta's initial fall from the sky to the ground, and then her further descent with Pazu into the depths of the mine, the rest of the action of our two protagonists is an ascent up to and through the final sequences on the castle in the sky.

For this Response Writing, I'd like to shift from "how anime flies?" to "why does Miyazaki's animation fly?" in this film. Miyazaki makes extensive use of flying, flying machines, and the sky itself as a kind of landscape in which to choreograph action and present his narrative. Reflect upon this kind of physical action in the sky and offer some interpretation of what it might mean symbolically or metaphorically. Why sky? Why flying? How do a sky-filled scenario and airborne action contribute to what Miyazaki might want to convey to the viewer through this film?

Try to stay within 300 words, but if you must, you can go up to 450 words.

Email your e-copy (Word DOC or Apple Pages) to:

RW2.5f363lonan@u.box.com

by noon, Thursday, January 26th.

Please name your file in this form: lastname-rw2.doc (for example: figal-rw2.doc)

The film (if you can not make the screening Tuesday in Cohen 203 at 7PM) is available at the course web site found at: <http://figal-sensei.org>.