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*
Nausicaaa

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.