



EVOLUTION OF LO-FI

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Lo-Fi (Low Fidelity) is at present incorrectly assumed to be a genre of music. During its inception lo-fi was more akin to a type of sound rather than a style of music. However, over the years, lo-fi has somewhat become a standard genre of music that is known to be popular amongst "bedroom musicians" or people producing music from their homes as opposed to studios.

Lo-fi was heavily criticised by both critics and the general audience when it first came onto the scene. The so-called "lo-fi aesthetic" would arise unintentionally during sound engineering and was characterised as being undesirable. Some of the first musicians to experiment with lo-fi did so somewhat by accident. The likes of Paul McCartney, The Beach Boys, Beck, and Robert Stevie Moore were among the first. Moore is today regarded as one of the pioneers of the genre.

Out of all the artists associated with lo-fi back then, only Moore was producing music in his home, which ultimately resulted in the overall aesthetic. While Moore's name isn't known as widely, his work has influenced Beck, Guided by Voices, and Ariel Pink.

By the start of the 1990s, lo-fi would become a radio mainstay by finding a place in the grunge scene. Grunge musicians wanted their music to sound rough and low effort. The "aesthetic" would prove to be as important in the grunge scene as the music itself.

Moving forward, lo-fi found itself a new home in jazz rap, a genre filled with producers sampling classic jazz artists. Selectively sampling parts from 50s jazz and then looping it endlessly became a common industry practice in jazz rap.

So, where is lo-fi now? It's still here and has finally become a genre in its

own right. Developments in technology over the past two decades has given rise to more bedroom musicians and created the electronic musician. The rise of personal computers and modern production capabilities has allowed more and more people to start dabbling in the genre by producing tracks from multiple samples.

But how did lo-fi finally make it into the mainstream? As music continued to evolve, demand arose at the turn of the last century for a different kind of music.

The purpose of a lo-fi track in this day and age is to be a simple song that you don't need to think about while you're listening to it. It's just the same sample (usually the best part) played on repeat over a beat with some effects such as that of a cassette deck or vinyl scratches added into the mix. The overall result is a song that doesn't require you to think about it. Instead, it sets the mood for a situation where you're almost procrastinating about the music you're listening to, making it a great genre to listen to while working or studying.

Jazz and lo-fi still continue to have a relationship, with the former being one of the cores of mainstream lo-fi music today. And while lo-fi still continues to be used as a production technique in genres such as "trip hop" and "chillhop", it cannot be denied that lo-fi has carved out a place for itself over the years. The democratic nature of the internet has truly allowed amateur and hobbyist musicians to carry the genre.

So be it at the next hangout with your friends, or an intense study session, lo-fi could be exactly what you're looking for. Allow it to drone away in the background while you do literally anything else.

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Types of Children in Horror Movies

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WARNING: Contains (a few) spoilers.

Since directors have mastered the art of using delightful creatures to haunt our nightmares, you'll often find children playing terrifying roles in horror movies. But since they don't always play the classic role of "child scared by the monster under his bed," these children haunt our nightmares as murderers, possessed individuals, and sometimes, as their regular, spooky selves. Being a person who watches horror movies as a pastime, I often come across new characters that fit well into at least one of these categories.

THE MEDIUM

The medium, or in simpler words, "the possessed" children are the most common in horror movies. From *The Exorcist* to *Anabelle: Creation*, there are countless horror movies with possessed children. Although not always playing major roles, these possessed children are the reason we flinch every time a child acts weird around us. While some exist merely to connect the real world to the spirit realm, others are what give the story momentum. Overall, these characters are often shown as shy and lonely children who have features that make them vulnerable to spirits trying to enter the real world.

THE BULLY

Although the bullies won't give you nightmares, their deaths will definitely leave a scar. In most movies, the bullies don't exactly play a major role in hauntings. However, they end up getting into some kind of trouble, be it encountering ghosts or facing death. In the Spanish film *The Orphanage*, orphans steal Tomás' sack mask which sort of becomes the reason both parties die.

Either way, the bullies in horror

films learn their lesson through clever script-writing that will definitely make them encounter a demon at some point, resulting in a scarring after-effect or a fatal death. Apparently, karma exists in the movie world.

THE MURDERER

Although fewer in number, some movies tend to portray children as the murderous villains who go on a killing spree. Usually, these children are either infected or plain psychotic, resulting in them murdering adults as well as other children. In movies like *Children of the Corn*, *Who Can Kill a Child?* and *The Children*, the story revolves around kids who deliberately kill the adults in their lives. Other movies with different plots include *Orphan*, *Joshua* and *Halloween (1987)* where an unstable child murders (or at least attempts to murder) relatives. Contrary to popular belief, the murderer child personas are the scariest of all. Because unlike the possessed, you can't drive their murderous instincts away with holy water.

THE GIFTED ONE

The gifted one will probably not be a supporting character of the story. Or like Elise Rainier from *Insidious*, she'll get her own movie at some point down the road. Usually either scared of the spirits or overly friendly with them, these kids aren't the troublemakers of the movie. Well, in some cases. While in *The Haunting of Connecticut 2: Ghosts of Georgia*, "the girl with a veil over her face," Heidi, simply befriended a spirit in their new house, Elise in *Insidious: Last Key* unlocked a door that resulted in her mother's death. Of course, the first troublesome activity doesn't count. After all, that's what starts the movie.

Antara wishes to conquer the world someday and bring back an alien from Pluto. To know more about her evil schemes, send an e-mail at: antara56.ar@gmail.com

