

### Paragraph 1

**T** The main message I received from watching the movie “Million Dollar Arm”, directed by Craig Gillespie was growth. **E** In the film I saw growth in the characters, not only were they developing with their skills but they were also growing into better people. At the beginning each character had their faults but slowly they became aware of their mistakes and thrived upon them. **X** A scene in the movie that showed the character’s development was when J.B and Brenda had a talk at night, J.B was complaining about how Rinku and Dinesh were not co-operating. After he was done letting his thoughts out, Brenda told him the reason for their strange behaviour was because he didn’t put any effort in helping them and showing them that he cared. **A** This was truly an eye opener for J.B because it made him self aware, it made him realize that it wasn’t the two boys who failed and that it was him instead. It is important to be self aware because your actions may affect you and others as well, it also helps you become more open minded and understanding to others which will prevent conflict. So because of that he began to change, he started becoming more understanding, approachable and encouraging. **S** After watching this movie and seeing what each characters went through, growth was the most outstanding message that I perceived.

### Paragraph 2

**T** The most common camera technique used to convey the concept of growth was the close-up shot. A close-up is a type of shot that “tightly frames a person or an object”. **E** Usually a close-up shot focuses on the face of an actor in different situations to show their facial expression as they react to their surroundings. This close-up shot helps us identify what sort of emotions the person may have during that moment. During the first and second tryouts, the close-up shot was used frequently. **X** At the first tryout they had two close-up shots, one of Rinku and one of Dinesh as they were about to pitch for the first time in front of many talent scouts/cameras. Then in the second tryout they used the exact same camera technique when the two boys were about to make their first pitch for the second time, and instead of having a big crowd, there was only a small crowd watching this time. **A** Director, Craig Gillespie used the exact same shot twice in these two scenes was to compare and show how Rinku and Dinesh have grown. Comparing the second tryout to the first one the boys have developed a lot, their facial expression when they were about to make their first pitch has changed, you can’t see the fear in their expressions anymore. Looking especially at their eyes, in the after shot their eyes didn’t widen as a sign of fear, in fact they squinted a bit to show that they were ready and knew what they were doing. They looked much more confident, calm and less tensed. This was seen all through the close-up shot. **S** In relation to growth, this camera technique has showed the growth in their Baseball skills as well as their confidence level.

### Paragraph 3

**T** A verbal technique that was used to show the growth in characters was dialogue. **E** This audio technique was used throughout the whole movie, it helps tell the storyline and enhances what is being showed on screen and supports the visual technique. Depending on the environment the way the characters voice themselves will be different. Their projection

may range, the tone of their voice may change or there may be long pauses to show suspense or tension. X The scenes that included different dialogues was the night after J.B lost his best client, Popo. During the night after they party, J.B had a blow out at the 3 Indian boys and directly to the two supposedly baseball players, he yelled “How about instead of being sorry you guys do what you were brought here to do, which was learn the game”. In contrast to the argument scene, the scene where J.B gave his last advice to Rinku and Dinesh before they went and pitched, he said “Remember guys just have fun out there”. A Relating this back to the main message of growth, these two scenes revealed how their relationship has grown because they are able to communicate better with each other. J.B changed the way he saw the boys, he gave them respect and treated them like his family. His tone was no longer aggressive and his words were no longer harsh like it was in the first scene, he grew to become more sincere and understanding like you can hear in his voice in the final scene. Rinku, Dinesh and Amit has grown to become more comfortable around J.B. They didn't say sorry when it wasn't their fault, also their English (speaking and understanding) has improved a lot, this was shown in the last scene where Amit spoke to them in English instead of Hindi like he would used to. S This verbal technique has made it easier for me to see the change in each character, not just within themselves but also the communication and relationship they have with each other.

#### Paragraph 4

T The most memorable scene for me was the montage of all five of them, J.B, Rinku, Dinesh, Amit and Brenda spending time together. E This montage includes them encouraging each other at trainings, doing yoga, watching a movie as well as making and having dinner together. Watching this montage made me happy and proud because it is quick shots of them spending quality time together and building a strong relationship. If J.B did not change then none of those things would happen, J.B and Brenda wouldn't have fallen in love and Rinku and Dinesh wouldn't have gotten another chance. If I were to re-create this scene I would add more dialogues to show more communication, and I would slow some shots down especially the part when they all gathered at Aash's house, J.B's co-worker. Similarly to the close-up shot you will see the facial expressions as the characters react to their surroundings, and it doesn't have to be a close up shot; it can just be a medium shot because everything is slowed and the audience will have time to pay attention to every detail. X For example, you will be able to see how the creases of a person's eyes go deeper as their smile grows when they see someone they love. It will make the audience feel like they're living the moment. A When things are slowed down it has more impact on the audience because you are able to see a deeper connection between the characters. I would also add a few dialogues in to enhance the visual techniques because most of the time the dialogue will make what we see more effective. The part that I would add a few lines in is when they're at the trainings, in that way the audience will get to hear the progress of the communication between J.B, Rinku, Dinesh and Amit. S These techniques will help show the growth of the relationship within these five, especially J.B's and Brenda's romantic relationship more effectively. By including these techniques it will be easier for the audience to interpret the message because they'll have more time and information to see what is going on.

## Paragraph 5

All this evidence through the visual and verbal techniques has helped me understand the main message of growth. Growth was clearly conveyed by using the same shots twice or dialogue to show a comparison and the changes of the characters' physical and mental being. For example the close-up shot used in both tryout scene which displayed the characters emotion and appearance as they grew more confident. Overall this movie was a touching movie and I enjoyed watching it, I would recommend this movie to people who likes seeing characters develop and grow into a better person.