



# **VISUAL TEXT STUDY**

## **Term 3**

THE BOOK THIEF

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# Visual Text Study

## LEARNING INTENTIONS

1. We are learning to identify cinematic techniques and their purpose.
2. We are learning to identify and explain how four (or more) techniques work together to communicate the director's purpose.
3. We are learning to identify and explain how these aspects work in wider contexts, such as human experience, society and the wider world.
4. We are learning to support an explanation of each aspect with specific and relevant details from the scene.



**IF THE DIRECTOR DOES THEIR JOB PROPERLY, EVERYTHING THAT YOU SEE AND HEAR IN A FILM IS DONE FOR A REASON.**

**THE DIRECTOR HAS USED TECHNIQUES ON PURPOSE TO TELL THE STORY.**

**SO, WHEN ANALYSING A SCENE, YOU SHOULD ASK, “WHY HAVE THEY DONE THIS?”**



The background is a vibrant, abstract composition of organic, flowing shapes in shades of pink, purple, blue, orange, and yellow. A large, white, rounded rectangular box is centered in the upper half of the image, serving as a container for the title text.

# **Visual Techniques**



**GUESS WHAT IS HAPPENING  
IN EACH OF THESE PICTURES  
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW?**



What does this picture  
say about DARTH Vader?

How do you know?



This is Vito Corleone.  
Judging from the  
picture, what can you  
guess about him?  
Why do you think that?



What do you think is  
going on with Jack  
Torrance?  
How do you know?



John Coffey is sentenced to death for murder.

From the picture, do you think he is a good guy or a bad guy? Why?



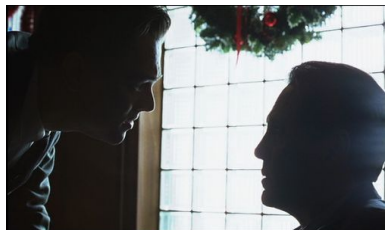
Watching the lion eat  
the deer while watching  
the documentary about  
lions



Watching the lion eat  
the deer while watching  
the documentary about  
deers

**PROTAGONIST  
AND  
ANTAGONIST**





**Lighting**



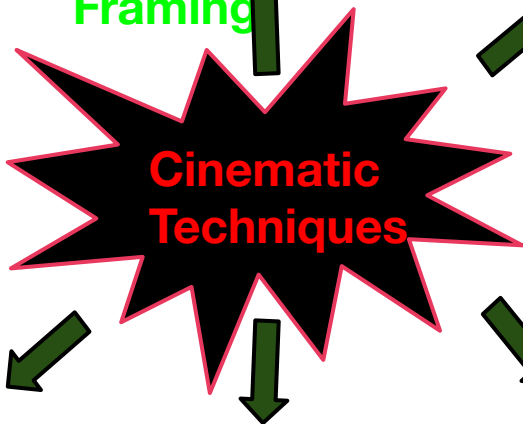
**Shots and  
Framing**



**Camera Angles**



**Costume and  
Make-up**



**Colour**



**Camera  
Movement**



**Symbolis**



**Music and Sound**





# **SHOTS AND FRAMING**

# ESTABLISHING SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** Often a long shot or a series of shots that sets the scene.

**EFFECT:** It is used to establish setting and to show transitions between locations.



# LONG SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** a shot from some distance. If filming a person, the full body is shown.

**EFFECT:** It may show the isolation or vulnerability of the character.



# MEDIUM SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** the most common shot. The camera seems to be a medium distance from the object being filmed. A medium shot shows the person from the waist up.

**EFFECT:** This effect is to ground the story.



# CLOSE UP

**WHAT IS IT:** the image takes up at least 80% of the frame.

**EFFECT:** Helps us know what the character is feeling.



# EXTREME CLOSE UP

**WHAT IS IT:** The image being shot is a part of a whole, such as an eye or a hand.

**EFFECT:** Gives focus to emotions or what is happening.



# TWO SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** a scene between two people shot exclusively from an angle that includes both characters more or less equally.

**EFFECT:** It is used where interaction between the two characters is important.



# OVER THE SHOULDER

**WHAT IS IT:** A shot where the camera is positioned behind one subject's shoulder, usually during a conversation.

**EFFECT:** It implies a connection between the speakers as opposed to the single shot that suggests distance.





# POINT OF VIEW SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** Shows a view from the subject's perspective.

**EFFECT:** Give audiences a view from a character's perspective by positioning the camera right where the character's eyes would be. These shots cast an illusion of access to a character's inner life, which makes POV shots very popular in TV and film.



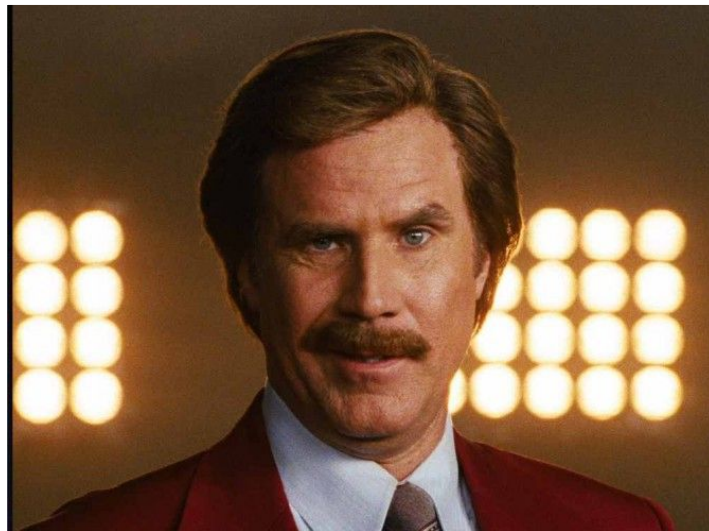


# Camera Angles

# EYE LEVEL

**WHAT IS IT:** A shot taken from a normal height; that is, the character's eye level. Most shots seen are eye level, because it is the most natural angle.

**EFFECT:** No power is involved.



# LOW ANGLE SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** The camera films subject from below.

**EFFECT:** This usually has the effect of making the subject look larger than normal, strong, powerful, and threatening.



# HIGH ANGLE SHOT

**WHAT IS IT:** The camera is above the subject.

**EFFECT:** This usually has the effect of making the subject look smaller than normal, giving him or her the appearance of being weak, powerless.





# **CAMERA MOVEMENTS**



# PAN

**WHAT IS IT:** a stationary camera moves from side to side on a horizontal axis.

**EFFECT:** Helps follow something at speed or reveals things.



# CROSS CUTTING

**WHAT IS IT:** quick cutting between scenes to show the reaction of the same event in various settings and with a variety of characters

**EFFECT:** Often used to show the vertical significance of something.





# TRACKING

**WHAT IS IT:** When the camera changes its position by moving left or right.

**EFFECT:** Often used to show the vertical significance of something.



# TILT

**WHAT IS IT:** A stationary camera moves up or down along a vertical axis.

**EFFECT:** Often used to show the vertical significance of something.



# ZOOM

**WHAT IS IT:** A stationary camera where the lens moves to make an object seem to move closer to or further away from the camera.

**EFFECT:** With this technique, moving into a character is often a personal or revealing movement, while moving away distances or separates the audience from the character





# **LIGHTING**

# BOTTOM OR SIDE LIGHTING

**WHAT IS IT:** Direct lighting from below or the side.

**EFFECT:** Often makes the subject appear dangerous or evil.



# FRONT OR BACK LIGHTING

**WHAT IS IT:** Soft lighting on the actor's face or from behind.

**EFFECT:** gives the appearance of innocence or goodness, or a halo effect.





# **COSTUMING**

# COLOUR

WHAT IS IT: The director gives a character certain colours to convey their emotion or as a symbol.

EFFECT: Colour is a very powerful way of conveying a message. White represents innocence, angelic, heavenly...



Good costuming not only looks good but enables viewers to make judgements about characters very quickly.



## CONDITION OF COSTUME

**WHAT IS IT:** The cleanliness or condition of the costume has been deliberately altered.

**EFFECT:** The condition of the costume can have the effect of telling us about the person's life while not in the shot.



# MAKEUP

WHAT IS IT: Foundation, eyeliner, lipstick... are added onto the face.

EFFECT: Makeup is used to help us make assumptions about a character or introduces major changes in appearance.



# SYMBOLISM

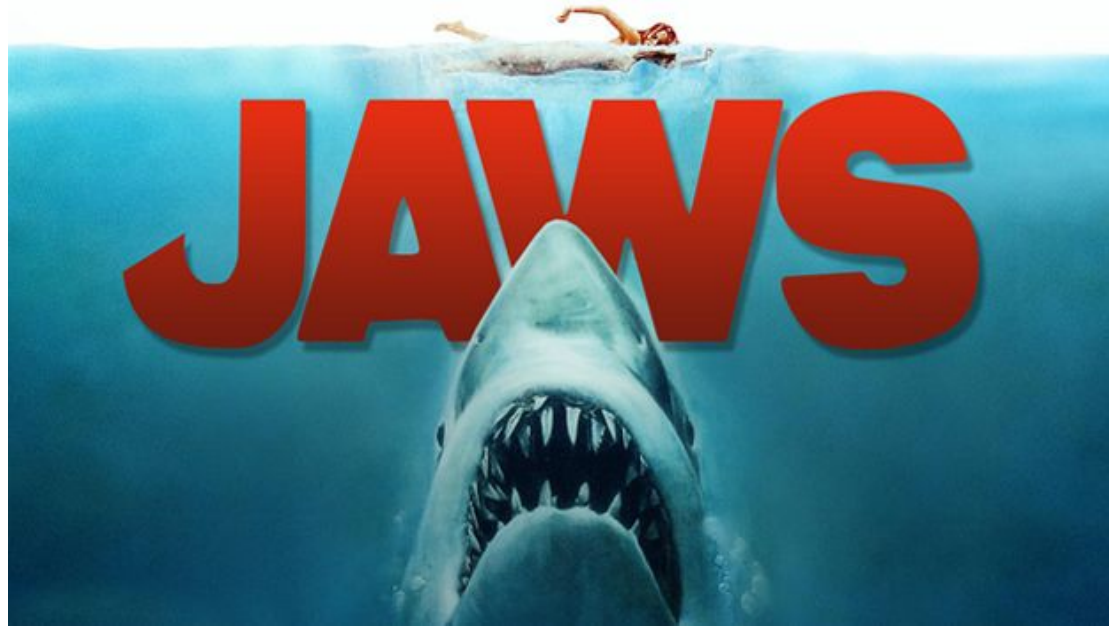


# Little Red Riding Hood

- Once upon a time, there was a little girl who lived with her mother. Her mother asked her to take her old and lonely grandmother some food one day. "Don't stop along the way. Go straight to your Grandma's house and back. Don't talk to any strangers and watch out for the wolf in the woods!" Now get along!"



↖ Foreshadowing



The Discarded Image: Episode 01 - Jaws  
(Spielberg, 1975)



What was the main message from the scene?

What techniques were used to show this?



What was the main message from the scene?

What techniques were used to show this?



What was the main message from the scene?

What techniques were used to show this?







# **VERBAL TECHNIQUES**

**Dialogue** – what is actually said by the characters in the film

**Voice-over:** usually voices out the thoughts of the character to explain their feelings and add details



## DIEGETIC SOUND

It is sound that the characters can hear as well as the audience, and usually implies a reaction from the character. Also called "literal sound" or "actual sound": eg voices of characters; sounds made by objects in the story, e.g. heart beats of a person, source music, represented as coming from instruments in the story space.

## NON- DIEGETIC SOUND

It is sound which is represented as coming from a source outside the story space, i.e. its source is neither visible on the screen. Also called "non-literal sound" or "commentary sound", Narrator's commentary; voice of God.

Sound effect which is added for dramatic effect: Mood music AND Film Score

Non-diegetic sound plays a significant role in creating the atmosphere and mood within a film.



# MUSIC IN FILM





# **THE BOOK THIEF**

DIRECTED BY: Brian Percival

# the book thief



COURAGE BEYOND WORDS.

