CINEMATIC TECHNIQUES
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?”
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?
PROTAGONIST AND ANTAGONIST

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

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

Shots and Framing

Cinematic Techniques

Camera Movement

Lighting

Costume and Make-up

Symbolism

Colour

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

**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...
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
MUSIC IN FILM
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!"
The Discarded Image: Episode 01 - Jaws (Spielberg, 1975)
What was the main message from the scene?

What techniques were used to show this?
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