

HOW TO ANALYSE A SCENE

Step 1

Watch the scene

Step 2

Identify 2 film techniques

Step 3

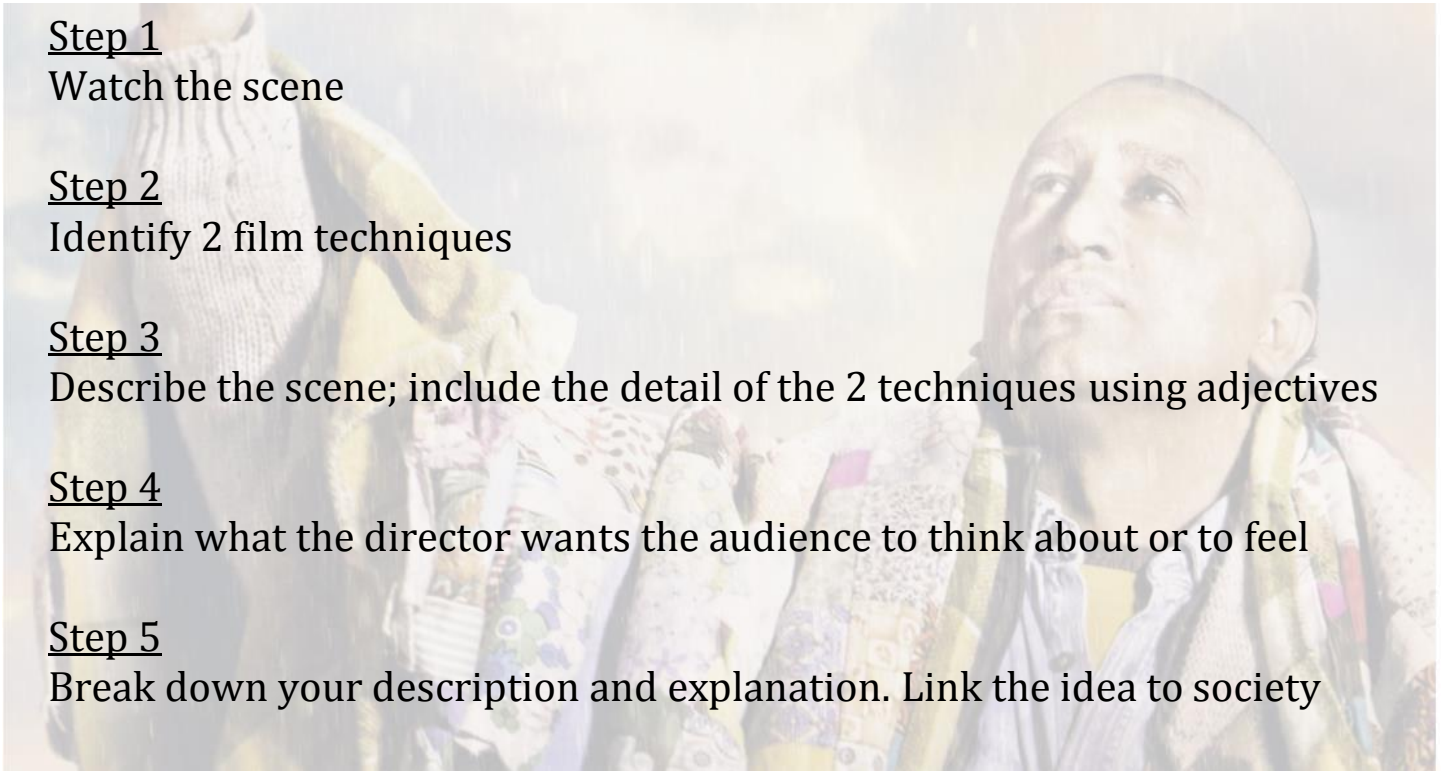
Describe the scene; include the detail of the 2 techniques using adjectives

Step 4

Explain what the director wants the audience to think about or to feel

Step 5

Break down your description and explanation. Link the idea to society



EXAMPLE SCENE ANALYSIS

OPENING SCENE OF THE DARK HORSE

Step 2

Two film techniques = SOUND AND SHOTS

Step 3

SOUND: Slow, soulful piano music and a gentle chanting in Maori

SHOTS: establishing shot as Genesis walks down a New Zealand street in the pouring rain with cars in the background beeping at him.

COSTUME: Genesis is wrapped in a colourful quilted blanket

Step 4

The music is slow so the director wants to make people feel sad. The chords are quite harmonic and peaceful. The establishing shot of Genesis walking down the street in the rain and forcing the cars to stop makes the viewers feel concerned for his well-being and curious about why he is doing that. The strange costume of the blanket indicates that he is not quite normal.

Step 5

Slow music slows down the heartbeat of the viewer and makes them more sensitive and responsive to what they are watching. The harmonies make us feel peaceful towards the character we see. Rhythmic music causes us to respond differently.

The director wants to ensure that the audience feel supportive towards the central character, Genesis because he is the central character in the story. It is not normal for anybody to walk down the middle of the road and as humans we are naturally concerned for the welfare of someone who puts themselves at risk like this. The director wants the audience to immediately wonder about Genesis' state of mind. It leads us to consider how society should care for people with mental illness.

Similarly, the unusual costume but the colours and the quilted pattern suggest a complex personality that is pieced together like a quilt. A cloak that is complex and created from smaller pieces reflects a similar personality. This leads us to wonder about how people are affected by difficult life experiences yet they carry on.

PRACTICE SCENE ANALYSIS

SECOND SCENE OF THE DARK HORSE

Step 1 - Carefully watch a scene from The Dark Horse

Step 2 - Write down 2-3 film techniques that you spotted

TECHNIQUE 1 _____

TECHNIQUE 2 _____

Step 3 - Describe the two techniques in detail, using adjectives

TECHNIQUE 1 _____

TECHNIQUE 2 _____

Step 4 - Give reasons why the director used this film technique and how she or he wanted to affect the audience's thoughts or feelings.

TECHNIQUE 1 _____

TECHNIQUE 2 _____

Step 5 - Write a paragraph to link the techniques to the outside world
