

Filming Shakespeare — Discussing visual media

Screenplay conventions

scene titles: number of scene - INT. / EXT - PLACE - TIME (in capitals)

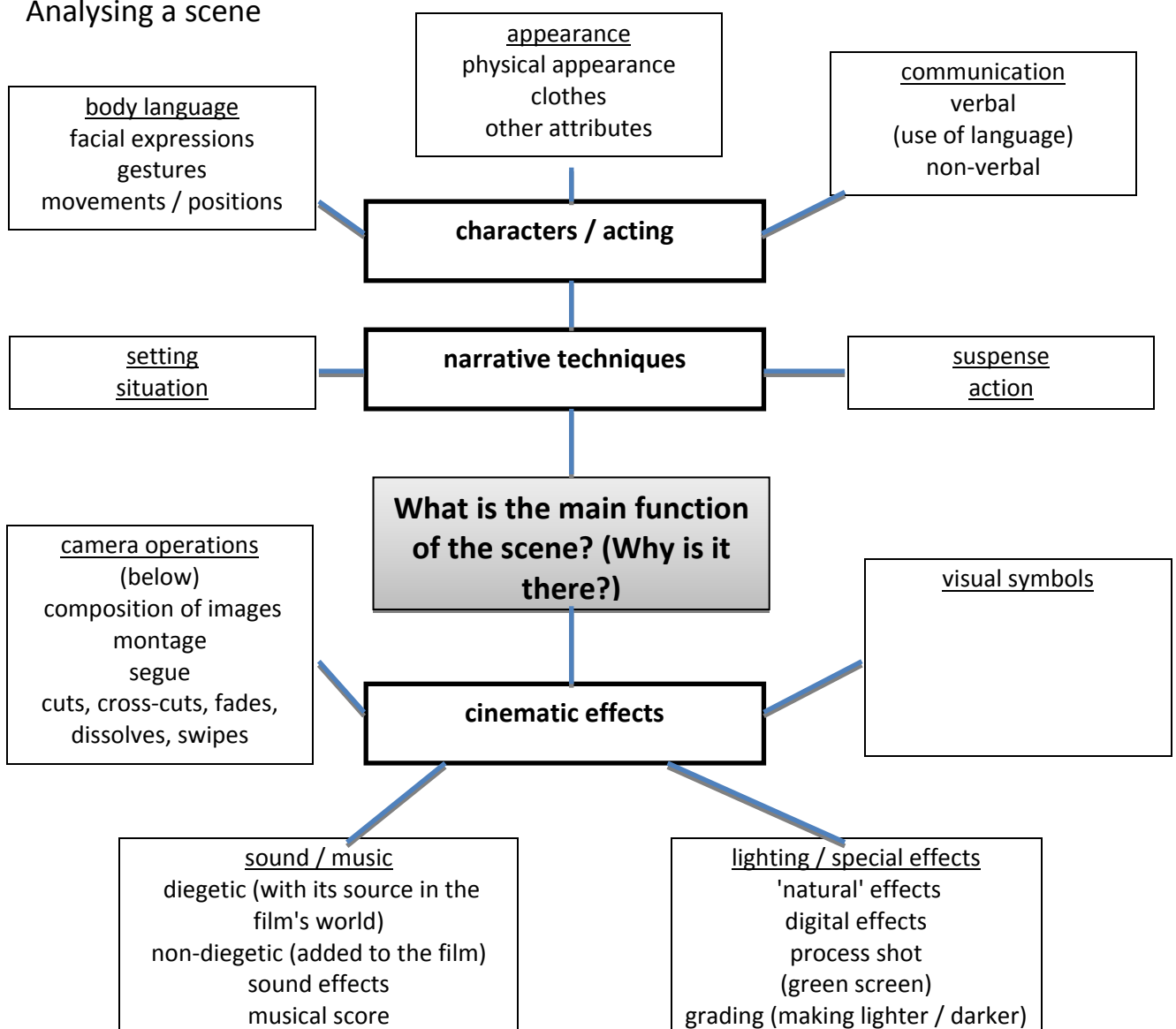
CHARACTERS (in capitals)

dialogue

directions / comments (in italics)

storyboard (like comic drawings)

Analysing a scene



Camera Operations



establishing shot to show the location at the start of a scene



long shot / wide shot (shows people or objects at a distance)



full shot (shows the whole body or object)



medium shot (upper body or part of object)



close-up (head and shoulders)



extreme close-up (detail of emotions)



overhead shot / bird's eye view



static shot (camera does not move)



to pan left/right (horizontal)
to tilt up/down (vertical)



crane shot (camera moves flexibly in all directions)



to focus on (to be in focus / out of focus)

to zoom out (away from s.o.)



to zoom in (on someone)



high-angle shot (from above)



low-angle shot (from below)



eye-level shot



over-the-shoulder shot



reverse-angle shot (showing the other person in the dialogue)



tracking shot (on rails)



camera on a dolly (to dolly in / out)
(to move in / pull out)

Examples of how to use film analysis words and phrases in sentences:

(The examples, like the images illustrating camera operations, are from the film *Romeo + Juliet* (1996) directed by Baz Luhrmann and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes)

The **sequence** which follows shows Romeo receiving the news of Juliet's death.

The trailer park is introduced in an **establishing shot**.

An **establishing shot** shows the trailer park where Romeo is staying.

The **director** uses an **establishing shot** of the trailer park to introduce the next **sequence**.

Romeo can be seen in a **long shot** practising baseball.

A **long shot** of Romeo shows his surroundings.

Long shots of the trailer park alternate with **close-ups** of Romeo.

A **long shot** shows Romeo in the **foreground** with trailers and the setting sun in the **background**.

The director uses a **close-up reaction shot** to show Romeo's growing anxiety.

A **full shot** shows Romeo walking away from Balthasar.

Romeo's reaction to the news is filmed in a **full shot**.

The camera **pans left** to follow Romeo in a **medium shot**.

When the camera shows Romeo in a **medium shot** the **viewer** can see his injury from the duel.

Close-ups of Romeo alternate with **long shots** of the trailer park.

The camera **zooms in on** Romeo to show his face in an **extreme close-up**.

The **extreme close-up** of Romeo's face shows his despair and grief.

This **scene** is shown in **screen time**, but the journey to the city is in **compressed time**.

The camera **tilts up** to show Juliet above.

The viewer sees Romeo in a **high-angle shot** from Juliet's **point of view**.

Selective focus shows Romeo's troubled face against an **out-of-focus** background.

Over-the-shoulder shots alternate with **reverse-angle shots** during the conversation.

Parts of the fight are **filmed** using a **hand-held camera**.

Cutaway shots show police in helicopters ready to fire.

The street brawl **segues into** the interview between Prince and the Montagues and Capulets.

Freeze-frames are used to give the names of the characters in the **opening credits**.

Tybalt's car turning over is filmed **in slow-motion**.

Romeo and Juliet's death **scene** is **filmed** using a **crane shot** alternating with **flashbacks** of their life.

The **non-diegetic** background music is the *Liebtestod* from Wagner's opera *Tristan und Isolde*.

The mail-delivery slip which Romeo treads on in his hurry to get news of Juliet becomes a **visual symbol** of the chain of fateful circumstances.

The fish-tank between the washrooms when Romeo and Juliet first meet **symbolizes** the distance between them.

Film people

director - in charge of all artistic aspects
producer - looks after money and practical aspects
actor - plays a character
star - plays the main role
stuntman - substitutes in dangerous scenes
extra - has a non-speaking part
camera operator - does the filming
grip - operates the camera dolly
boom operator - holds the microphone boom
unit manager - gets everyone to the right place
electrician (gaffer) - looks after the lighting
prop manager - looks after the props
wardrobe master/mistress - organizes and fits costumes
make-up department - does make-up and prosthetics
continuity - makes sure the screenplay is all filmed
clapper-loader - claps the slate at the start of a take
photographer - takes still photos for publicity
composer - writes the music
catering service - provides food and drink

[Michael Mitchell]