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|  | QUESTION 1 (character) | QUESTION 2 (important scene) | QUESTION 3 (theme) |
| Q. | Choose a film or TV drama\* which has a memorable character. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the director makes the character memorable throughout the film or TV drama. | Choose a scene or a sequence from a film or TV drama\* which has a powerful impact on the audience. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the director creates this impact. | Choose a film or TV drama\* which explores an important issue. By referring to appropriate techniques, explain how the director presents the issue in the film/TV drama as a whole. |
| Intro | The film Crash directed by Paul Haggis in 2004 is a film which has a memorable character called John Ryan because he is a racist who redeems himself. Throughout the film we see Ryan in number of situations where racism is shown before he rescues a black woman, Christine, from a car crash. We can look at a series of important scenes to show how Haggis makes Ryan memorable. | The film Crash directed by Paul Haggis in 2004 is a film which has a sequence with a powerful impact when John Ryan saves Christine from a car crash. Throughout the film Ryan has shown he’s a racist but in this scene he shows he can be a good person by rescuing a woman of colour who he wouldn’t usually treat with any respect. We can look at how Haggis builds the film up to this scene so that it has a powerful impact on the audience. | The film Crash by Paul Haggis in 2004 is a film which deals with the issue of racism. In the film we see John Ryan behave as a racist towards a number of black people before rescuing a black woman from a car crash. We can look at how Haggis presents the issue of racism by using Ryan’s character in various scenes. |
| Par 1 | The first way Ryan is made memorable is when we see him talking on his phone to the hospital whilst on the train. The angry dialogue and the close-up camera angles show us that Ryan is feeling confused, irritated and worried about his dad’s wellbeing. This shows Ryan is trying to help his dad out and wants the best for his dad and to get him the right help. This makes Ryan memorable because it shows he has a soft dad and cares for his parent. | The scene that has the most powerful impact is the final scene when he rescues Christine from a car crash that is about to explode. The scene is accompanied by fast orchestral music, there is a long shot of the crash, medium shots of Ryan fighting his team to get back to Christine and then close ups of Ryan’s face, Christine’s face and a close up of them hugging each other. The music shows that the scene is tense because people’s lives are at risk. The long shot of the crash shows how serious the crash is and that the petrol spill is about to cause an explosion. The medium shots of the fight show Ryan’s team trying to restrain it highlighting how dangerous the situation is. The close-ups show Christine rejecting Ryan’s help because he assaulted her but then accepting his help because she needs it to survive. The close up of them hugging shows that racism is superceded in this moment by the humanity of the moment because Ryan has saved Christine’s life, bonding them. This scene has such a big impact because he puts his racism aside and rescues Christine because she is a human in need help, his racism has been building the whole way through the film as we can see. | Initially the film begins softly with Ryan seen as a man protecting his father as he talks on his phone to the hospital whilst on the train. The angry dialogue and the close-up camera angles show us that Ryan is feeling confused, irritated and worried about his dad’s wellbeing. This shows Ryan is trying to help his dad out and wants the best for his dad and to get him the right help. This makes clear that the film focuses on Ryan and that he will be our main character who is quite complex. |
| Par 2 | The second way Ryan becomes memorable is when he starts to get racist after learning the hospital worker he is speaking to is called Shaniqwa. The dialogue has him saying ‘big fucking surprise’ and he starts yelling and there is a close-up of his police badge. The word choice of him swearing shows that he is unhappy that Shaniqwa is black, the dialogue of him yelling shows that he thinks he is not getting the correct help or service because she is black and the police badge is shown because there is a contrast between his job which means he should be a good citizen and the bad way he is behaving. This makes Ryan memorable because his behaviour is awful and shows he is racist. | Things start to build towards the ending from the start with the introduction of Ryan being racist as he talks on his phone to the hospital whilst on the train. The angry dialogue and the close-up camera angles show us that Ryan is feeling confused, irritated and worried about his dad’s wellbeing. This shows Ryan is trying to help his dad out and wants the best for his dad and to get him the right help. This makes clear that the film focuses on Ryan and that he will be our main character who is quite complex. | The film brings in the main issue when Ryan starts to get racist after learning the hospital worker he is speaking to is called Shaniqua. The dialogue has him saying ‘big fucking surprise’ and he starts yelling and there is a close-up of his police badge. The word choice of him swearing shows that he is unhappy that Shaniqwa is black, the dialogue of him yelling shows that he thinks he is not getting the correct help or service because she is black and the police badge is shown because there is a contrast between his job which means he should be a good citizen and the bad way he is behaving. This makes clear that the issue the film is dealing with is racism and that Ryan is a bad person because of his attitude towards black people. |
| Par 3 | Another way Ryan is made memorable is when we see him pull over a ‘stolen’ car and abuse the black driver, Cameron, and his wife, Christine. The scene is at night-time which makes it seem grim and feel even bleaker. Christine’s costume is a white dress and we get a series of close-ups of Ryan ‘patting her down’ for weapons but really he is groping her breasts, legs and groin area. Christine’s dress is white as it suggests innocence, also the rest of the scene is darkly lit so it is easy to see what is happening to Christine and the close-ups show she is being assaulted. There is also orchestral music in this scene, the notes are long and tense and quite shrill. This all adds to the mood of the scene and makes you feel the fear that Christine feels because of how Ryan treats her. This makes Ryan memorable as you start to hate him because of his awful actions. | The film brings in the main issue when Ryan starts to get racist after learning the hospital worker he is speaking to is called Shaniqua. The dialogue has him saying ‘big fucking surprise’ and he starts yelling and there is a close-up of his police badge. The word choice of him swearing shows that he is unhappy that Shaniqwa is black, the dialogue of him yelling shows that he thinks he is not getting the correct help or service because she is black and the police badge is shown because there is a contrast between his job which means he should be a good citizen and the bad way he is behaving. This makes clear that the issue the film is dealing with is racism and that this will be what the main sequence deals with. | The middle of the film shows a scene which has Christine and Ryan meet for the first time where Ryan sexually assaults her and it shows the depths of his horrible racism. The scene is at night-time which makes it seem grim and feel even bleaker. Christine’s costume is a white dress and we get a series of close-ups of Ryan ‘patting her down’ for weapons but really he is groping her breasts, legs and groin area. Christine’s dress is white as it suggests innocence, also the rest of the scene is darkly lit so it is easy to see what is happening to Christine and the close-ups show she is being assaulted. There is also orchestral music in this scene, the notes are long and tense and quite shrill. This all adds to the mood of the scene and makes you feel the fear that Christine feels because of how Ryan treats her. Ryan’s behaviour here is disgusting and his abhorrent actions show why racism is wrong because it leads to people being treated badly. |
| Par 4 | Ryan realises that his actions are racist and attempts to apologise to Shaniqua when he realises he shouldn’t have got angry at her. In this scene we see through medium shots, body language and dialogue that Ryan starts off meaning well but eventually ends up being removed by security. His voice slowly raising shows he is getting angry, his body movements from sitting to standing show him becoming more and more agitated from a calm state. This makes Ryan memorable because we see him realising he has been racist and trying to make it right but his complex nature and aggression means he mucks it up. | The middle of the film shows a scene which has Christine and Ryan meet for the first time where Ryan sexually assaults her. The scene is at night-time which makes it seem grim and feel even bleaker. Christine’s costume is a white dress and we get a series of close-ups of Ryan ‘patting her down’ for weapons but really he is groping her breasts, legs and groin area. Christine’s dress is white as it suggests innocence, also the rest of the scene is darkly lit so it is easy to see what is happening to Christine and the close-ups show she is being assaulted. There is also orchestral music in this scene, the notes are long and tense and quite shrill. This all adds to the mood of the scene and makes you feel the fear that Christine feels because of how Ryan treats her. Ryan’s behaviour here is disgusting and we know that the major scene is going to build in some way around his abhorrent actions. | Racism is continued as an issue when Ryan realises that his actions are racist and attempts to apologise to Shaniqua when he realises he shouldn’t have got angry at her. In this scene we see through medium shots, body language and dialogue that Ryan starts off meaning well but eventually ends up being removed by security. His voice slowly raising shows he is getting angry, his body movements from sitting to standing show him becoming more and more agitated from a calm state. This makes racism an issue because Ryan realises he has been racist and tries to make it right but his complex nature and aggression means he mucks it up. |
| Par 5 | Ryan is most memorable in this film in one of the final scenes when he rescues Christine from a car crash that is about to explode. The scene is accompanied by fast orchestral music, there is a long shot of the crash, medium shots of Ryan fighting his team to get back to Christine and then close ups of Ryan’s face, Christine’s face and a close up of them hugging each other. The music shows that the scene is tense because people’s lives are at risk. The long shot of the crash shows how serious the crash is and that the petrol spill is about to cause an explosion. The medium shots of the fight show Ryan’s team trying to restrain it highlighting how dangerous the situation is. The close-ups show Christine rejecting Ryan’s help because he assaulted her but then accepting his help because she needs it to survive. The close up of them hugging shows that racism is superceded in this moment by the humanity of the moment because Ryan has saved Christine’s life, bonding them. Ryan is most memorable in this scene because he puts his racism aside and rescues Christine because she is a human in need help. | We think Ryan is going to do the right thing when he tries to apologise to Shaniqua when he realises he shouldn’t have gotten mad at her on the phone. In this scene we see through medium shots, body language and dialogue that Ryan starts off meaning well but eventually ends up being removed by security. His voice slowly raising shows he is getting angry, his body movements from sitting to standing show him becoming more and more agitated from a calm state. This shows Ryan attempting to make things right but he still struggles as he doesn’t know how to treat black people normally. | The racism issue is realised in one of the final scenes when Ryan rescues Christine from a car crash that is about to explode. The scene is accompanied by fast orchestral music, there is a long shot of the crash, medium shots of Ryan fighting his team to get back to Christine and then close ups of Ryan’s face, Christine’s face and a close up of them hugging each other. The music shows that the scene is tense because people’s lives are at risk. The long shot of the crash shows how serious the crash is and that the petrol spill is about to cause an explosion. The medium shots of the fight show Ryan’s team trying to restrain it highlighting how dangerous the situation is. The close-ups show Christine rejecting Ryan’s help because he assaulted her but then accepting his help because she needs it to survive. The close up of them hugging shows that racism is superceded in this moment by the humanity of the moment because Ryan has saved Christine’s life, bonding them. In this scene Ryan shows that there are more important things than racism when he chooses to rescue Christine in spite of disliking her skin colour. |
| Con. | In conclusion, Ryan is a memorable character in Crash because he is a racist but he turns his life around and his attitude in rescuing Christine. He is more complex than simply disliking black people. There are reasons for this as we learn from his relationship with his dad. | In conclusion, this whole film has been trying to show us that racism is wrong. The film created tension between several of the characters. This then led to the crash scene that the film is named for that showed that prejudices aren’t important and shouldn’t affect us when it comes to the things that matter like living. | In conclusion, racism is clearly an important issue in this film and demonstrates that racism is wrong. Because of being a racist, Ryan insults the hospital trying to help his dad and sexually assaults Christine. Ultimately he learns that human life is valuable of skin colour to rescue Christine from being burnt alive. |