

13 Visual Techniques

Task 6 Your Text - Conveying Ideas

1 Choose two visual language features from the list on the left and draw lines from each of them to one or two of the effects on the right which describe how the technique conveyed an idea in your studied text.



- Gives me information about the setting (time, place, kind of people).
- Gives me feelings about the setting (pleasure, fear, anticipation etc.).
- Gives me information about the plot (past, present, future action).
- Gives me feelings about the action (tense, fast, spectacular etc.).
- Gives me information about the characters (outsides reveal insides).
- Develops my feelings about the characters (love, hate etc.).
- Shows me an idea (developed one of the writer's themes).
- Combines with another aspect of the text to increase its impact.
- Improves the illusion that the film / play is real as I watch.

2 Record in the **Response Template** below the name of one **visual feature** and three detailed **examples** from the text you have studied (e.g. film, television programme, stage play). State how the feature is used and in the grey boxes record a clear explanation of one idea that is **developed**. Include in one or more responses an explanation of the **impact** of the technique on you as an **audience** and explain what the director's **purpose** might be.

Example :

Visual Technique Costume	As I watched the play Romeo and Juliet I could see that the idea the
Details of example 1 The Capulets wear	director had was that she would represent the Capulets as being 'negative'
black costumes and the Montagues wear	characters by costuming them in black and the Montagues who represent
red costumes.	the 'good' characters were costumed in red.

Visual Technique
Details of example 1
.....
.....
Details of example 2
.....
.....
Details of example 3
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Setting the Scene

Setting is always important in a work of fiction (invented - or invented based on fact) or non-fiction (factual) work. As you prepare for the internal assessment for AS 1.11 you are aiming to **describe** the setting and **explain** its **significance** to the work as a whole by **discussing visual and oral** features.

Note: if you find it difficult to answer these questions with your chosen text then it probably does not have sufficient depth to enable you to answer AS 1.11 successfully. Choose another work e.g. a film or drama production rather than a graphic novel to answer these questions.



Task 8 Setting - Locating the Story

- Use details from a text you have studied to complete your own **Details of the Setting** table. Consider these points :
 - Place** - Real or imagined? Rural or urban (or both)? Safe or dangerous? Big or small?
 - Time** - Past, present or future? Peace or war? Summer or winter?
 - Social Context** - Rich or poor? Young or old? Competing or co-operating? Good or bad?

Title of Text :

Writer/director : Text Type :

(e.g. film, television programme, drama production, graphic novel, radio programme or oral presentation)

Place	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Time	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
Social Context	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>

25 Plot

Task 16 Plot and Interest

1 Match one of the following 4 types of plot complication that screenwriters use to attract interest with the blurbs from a range of popular films and TV programmes. There are two films for each type.

Surprise	Mystery	Conflict	Suspense
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a) The play, *The Mousetrap*, has a classic whodunit plot – snowed in and stranded by a snowdrift at a hotel, the guests are suddenly in fear for their lives when Detective Sergeant Trotter arrives to tell them that a murderer is on the loose and may well be heading for the hotel.

(*The Mousetrap* by Agatha Christie)

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b) *Witness* is a 1985 American thriller film directed by Peter Weir and starring Harrison Ford and Kelly McGillis. The film focuses on a detective protecting a young Amish boy who becomes a target after he witnesses a murder in Philadelphia.

(*Witness* was produced by Edward S. Feldman.)

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c) In the long running New Zealand television series *Shortland Street*, Josh Gallagher arrived in Ferndale last May like a knight in shining armour, pulling Bella Cooper from the wreckage of the helicopter crash. Now he's the villain, ruthlessly risking lives in the quest for glory. So how did it all go so wrong? (*Shortland Street* is produced in Auckland by South Pacific Pictures.)

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d) Set in Auckland, New Zealand *Sione's Wedding*, a comedy romance film, centres around four Samoan boys : ladies' man Michael, party boy Sefa, good boy Albert, and weird Stanley, who although they are in their mid 20s to early 30s have a reputation for behaving immaturely at special occasions such as family weddings.

(*Sione's Wedding* was directed by Chris Graham and produced by South Pacific Pictures.)

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e) *The Quiet Earth*, is a 1985 New Zealand science fiction post- apocalyptic film stars Bruno Lawrence, Alison Routledge and Pete Smith as three survivors of a cataclysmic disaster.

(*The Quiet Earth* was directed by Geoff Murphy.)

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f) In a radio play called *Resistance*, people are able to control everything from their TV to their bank accounts via a surgically implanted electronic chip. But there are still freedom fighters – 'the resistance' – who refuse to be chipped. (*Resistance* is written by Rebecca Barnes and produced by Radio NZ.)

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g) A romantic comedy film with a Kiwi-Asian twist, *My Wedding and Other Secrets* is a 2011 feature film which tells the story of Emily Chu, a young New Zealand born Chinese woman, who falls in love with, and secretly marries, a European guy and consequently faces disownment from her traditional Hong Kong born parents.

(*My Wedding and Other Secrets* was directed by Roseanne Liang and produced by South Pacific Pictures)

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h) The 2002 feature film, *Whale Rider*, concerns Pai, the first grandchild of the whanau, she is loved by all her relatives except the one whose love she needs most - her grandfather.

(*Whale Rider* was directed by Niki Caro and produced by South Pacific Pictures.)

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Compare and Contrast Characters

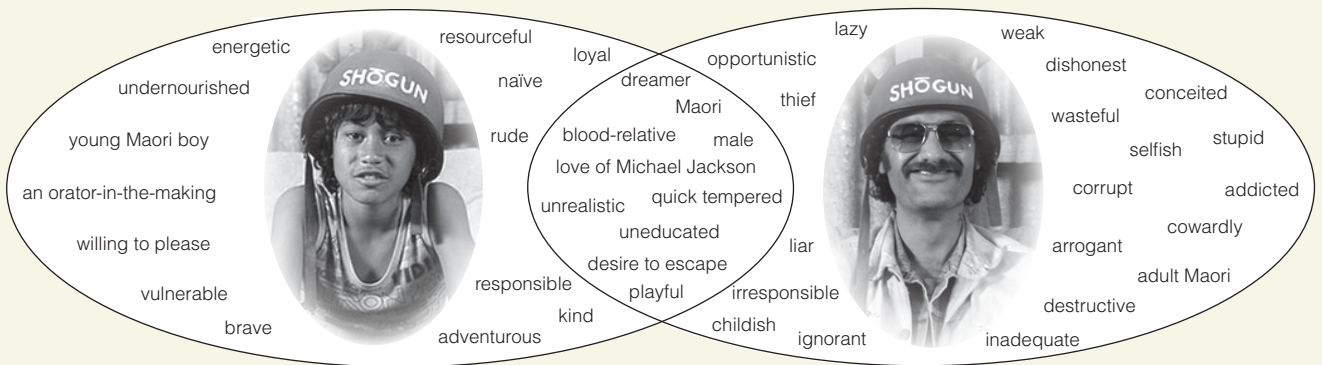
The concept of putting things side by side so that you can notice the points they have in common and how they differ from one another is known as **Compare** and **Contrast**. A writer's purpose in making use of this common tool is to highlight specific character traits in their chosen characters. The intended audience for the chosen film, television programme, stage play, or radio play is more likely to remember the work if they discover what the characters had in common and how they contrasted with one another. One way is using a Venn diagram. The circles partly overlap, and what they have in common i.e. the **points of comparison** are written in the overlapping circle e.g. males. The things written on the outside of the overlap represent **the contrasts** between them e.g. adult/child.

Example :

Taika Waititi, writer /director of the 2010 New Zealand comedy feature film, *Boy*, makes use of this technique. The film is set in 1984 in the small East Coast Maori Community of Raukokore by the beautiful Waihou Bay. The locals belong to Te Whanua-a-Apanui tribe. At the beginning of the film, one of the three **main characters**, 'Boy' (James Rolleston), whose real name is Alamein, makes a speech to his eleven-year-old classmates about who he is and who are the most important people and animals in his life.

Boy most admires two people: firstly Michael Jackson as the person who is according to him the greatest singer/ dancer in the world and secondly his absent father, Alamein (Taika Waititi). Boy describes his father as a master carver, deep sea diver, captain of the local rugby team, war hero and close relative of Michael Jackson who is "overseas on pretty important business". Although Boy lives in a world of fantasy he is forced by circumstances to look after the children in his family and take care of his Nan's house.

Boy's father, Alamein, avoids taking responsibility for his children whose mother died in childbirth and he steals for a living. Alamein's main ambition on being released from prison is to find the stolen money he has stashed in the next door paddock at Raukokore. He makes empty promises to Boy and his brother, Rocky, telling them he will make them rich and take them to the city to see Michael Jackson. Eventually Alamein is beaten up in a fight by the gang members who own the marijuana patch that Boy has been exploiting on his behalf.



Task 22 Your Text - Character Venn Diagram

- Use this technique to prepare and revise for the internal assessment, AS 1.11. Complete this Venn diagram to show points of **comparison** and **contrast** or points of **conflict**. You could contrast your central character with another central character e.g. one who is in conflict with him or her, or with a minor character who has an impact on the central character's life.

Name of your studied text :

Writer/Director : Text type :

Character A : Character B :

