

SUMMER PREPARATORY WORK

AS LEVEL FILM STUDIES

Central
Saint Michael's
Sixth Form

A UNIVERSITY-STYLE SIXTH FORM

Film Studies Summer Work

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Watch the following sequence: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISsfuEG4GMA>

(search 'Pan's Labyrinth Pale Man Sequence' if link doesn't work for any reason)

This is from your first close study film in September *Pan's Labyrinth*. (Guillermo Del Toro Spain 2006).

How is suspense developed in the Pale Man sequence of *Pan's Labyrinth*?

You will write a paragraph focusing on one example of each of the following elements of **Film Form** which forms the core analysis we do in Film Studies.

Mise-en-scène – French for 'put into the scene' this is anything that has been placed before the camera, such as costumes, settings and props. *What colour is dominant in this sequence? What might be significant about this choice in creating suspense.*

Cinematography – This is anything that involves the camera, shot type, angle, movements, focus. Research what these are. *For example this sequence uses lots of low angles and shallow focus, why might this be?*

Editing – This refers to how shots follow each other, what events are shown, in what order, does the director include any transitions such as cuts, fades dissolves. *In this case Del Toro mostly shows the little girl Ofelia, however he repeatedly cuts back to the pale man, how might this create suspense?*

Sound – There are two varieties of film sound:

Diegetic, which is sound that naturally occurs in the film, for example gun shots in an action film.

Non-Diegetic is sound that is added for effect, that the characters wouldn't actually hear in the film world, such as dramatic music or sound effects.

In this sequence how does music create dramatic effect? What other sounds can you hear? Hint: Listen closely when the paintings on the ceiling are shown.

P.T.O for Advice on Structuring your response

Structure:

Please write these paragraphs up in a PEELI structure.

POINT: Make a clear statement that links to the question:

In Pan's Labyrinth's Pale Man sequence, Del Toro utilises a shallow depth of field (fancy term for camera focus) in his cinematography to show the Pale Man.

EVIDENCE: Identify where this technique is used in the film sequence.

We see this when Ofelia is arguing with the fairies, Ofelia is positioned close to the camera in the foreground, and in focus, the Pale Man is out of focus in the background.

EXPLAIN: Now clearly explain the effect of this technique on the audience, remember the question focus was on creating suspense.

The effect of this, is that we never feel comfortable as this strange and menacing creature haunts the background of the shots, reminding us that the little girl may be in danger, heightening the sense of suspense.

LINK: Link to context here.

Here you will need to **do some research**, find out some information about Del Toro, his upbringing, the kind of films he makes, his passions, does this link to this, or, research the context of this film, it is set in 1944 in Spain find out who Francisco Franco was. How might the pale man be a metaphor for him?

Link to context example: *The film is set in Francoist Spain in 1944, therefore the Paleman haunting the background of the scene may be symbolic for the threat of Franco and his Falangist forces which haunted Spain at this time.*

INTENTION: What was del Toro's intention, (this can be done within the link section if relevant).

Del Toro is fiercely anti-fascist, therefore he makes a clear link between the monstrous Pale Man and the fascist forces of Spain in the 1940s to convey his hatred of fascism.

Complete one PEELI paragraph for each area of Film Form.

Please bring your completed work to your first lesson in September.