

Cinematography

Definitions

- **Cinematography** – The art of filming a series of shots in a coherent and imaginative way that creates meaning and tells the story to the audience.
- **Cinematographer** – The person who decides how to film each shot, how to organise the lighting and objects in a scene.

The director decides how the overall scene will be shot, and the cinematographer carries out that vision to make it a reality

Shot Distances



Long shot

- This shot has the car window in frame while focussing outside of the car. This creates distance between Shiron in the car and the others to show a disconnection from Chiron's point of view



Medium close up

- This shot establishes the intense and aggressive body language of Chiron's mother by focussing on her face while still keeping room to show part of her body tilting towards the camera.



Close up

- This shot focuses on Chiron's head and Juan upper most body which gives a very intimate scene between the two characters without anything interfering.

Shot angles



Eye level/birds eye view

- This scene looks directly down on Chiron as he lays on the floor, focussing on his head which gives a sense of powerlessness, as if Chiron was looking up for help, almost breaking the 4th wall with an extra diegetic gaze.



High angle shot

- This scene looks slightly down on Chiron as he hides away from the bullies, and this high angle looking down on Chiron shows his inferior status in this scene, and positions the audience to empathise with him seeing him like this.



Low angle shot

- This scene looks slightly up at Chiron as he looks down on his mother, and this low angle looking up at Chiron shows his superior status as he faces his mum, no longer in fear, and we see how Chiron has grown to gain confidence and power

Shot Movements #1



Tracking shot:

In this scene the camera moves in a continuous motion, following Juan, and this gives an uneasy feeling for the audience as we circle around Juan and this other stranger, and the audience is not sure what is happening or if what's happening is safe.

Shot Movements #2



Pan shot:

This shot pans from left to right, looking from Chiron, to what he's looking at, back to Chiron, and its done with a very hand held movement, which puts the audience directly into Chiron's shoes, the camera almost acting like his eyes.

Shot Movements #3



Tilt up shot:

In this scene the camera follows the dirty towel on the floor as Chiron picks it up and then gives it to his mother, and this is to show how Chiron is essentially picking his unwell mother up from the ground, and trying to help her back up.



Depth of field

- Depth of field is how the camera focusses on a subject, and focusses to a certain distance, and blurring everything behind it.
- Shallow depth of field – Creates high contrast between subject and background by blurring.
- Deep depth of field – Creates very little contrast between subject and background