

La Jetée (Marker, Korea, 1962) - Analysis Sheet for Evaluative Commentary

Part 1: Brief Reference

<p>What did you like about the film? I liked the mystery and build up of the film and how it didn't reveal the story to the audience, and they had to figure it out themselves. I also liked the horror elements and body horror with the bandages on eyes.</p>	<p>What didn't you like? I didn't like that the film was too hard to follow at points as I didn't understand the film until a second rewatch.</p>
<p>What ideas could you use? Narrative or style? Using the silent background with a narrator on top.</p>	<p>What ideas won't you use? Why? I won't use the black and white film noir style as I want to use more diverse colors.</p>

Part 2: In-Depth Study – Narrative

Narrative Feature	Example	Your own example
<p>Establishing protagonist - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?</p>	<p>Introduced only in narration - first in third person as “a man marked by an image”; then in first person -memory of incident at the airport. We don't see him until the first experiment is shown. This shows how core the act of remembering is to his identity - indeed we find out very little about him (he remains nameless) apart from his ‘remembering’ (even when he is travelling in time).</p>	<p>We see that the man is having a memory of the image at the airport. The narrator keeps his identity a mystery apart from the fact that he is remembering things from his past even though he is time traveling.</p>
<p>Establishing other characters - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?</p>	<p>The Woman is the first person we see (“the only image to survive the war”) - and she is defined only by the fact the narrator remembers her. Feminist critics may comment on the fact she barely seems to exist outside the</p>	<p>The first person we see is a woman who is in the only image that survived the war, and she is the only one the narrator remembers. Feminists use her to represent the fact she only seems to exist from the experiences of the narrator.</p>

	experiences of the narrator and her growing belief in him.	
Establishing location (time and place) - what information do we find out? How is it conveyed?	We are told immediately that the location is Paris. The bombed-out wreckage of the city (real WW2 images) don't immediately establish that this is the future until the narrator mentions radiation. The underground location beneath the Palais de Chaillot is shown by intercut images of broken cherubs and other sculptures.	Paris is revealed as the location where it takes place. We find out the bombed area of the city is where it takes the future and then we taken to the underground location shown by images of broken cherubs and other sculptures.
Creating Enigmas - what are they? How are they created?	The image the narrator obsesses over is the central enigma: who is the man he witnesses dying? How does he die? Who is the woman? The still images and voiceover powerfully evoke the nature of memory.	What other questions are posed throughout the narrative? The narrator focuses on the central enigma who is the man dying, who is the woman.
Narrative binary oppositions	The 'Living Present' vs Past/Future. As the film progresses, what constitutes the 'present' (for the protagonist) seems to shift from his dystopian subterranean society to the 'past' of pre-apocalypse Paris. This is conveyed by the faster rhythm of the montage and the sequence (18:00-18:49) where the images almost become like traditional cinema.	The film progresses and we go from the dystopian society to the past pre apocalypse. The rhythm of the film speeds up.
Crisis - how was this conveyed?	Is it the first experiment? The moment the man spots the woman from the airport? Or is it when the future society offers him the chance to escape to the future?	What do you think is the crisis point? How does this affect the rest of the narrative? I think the crisis point is him figuring where in time that he is.

<p>Resolution - is it closed or open narrative?</p>	<p>The narrative is closed - but it is also in a loop: the narrator is both the dying man and the child watching the scene. This 'time paradox' has inspired films as diverse as The Terminator and Looper (as well as 12 Monkeys which is almost a remake).</p>	<p>What do you think about the end? Is it closed - or endlessly circular? The man sees a hooded figure representing death and comes to the terrifying conclusion that he is the man that is dying as well as the kid who is watching making the film a paradox.</p>
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Part 3: Meaning and Effect

<p>What did you think was the intention of the filmmaker(s)? Intellectual message? Emotional response? Everyone is trapped in their time - they cannot escape it, even through memory. It is also about concept of photography and cinema itself, trying to 'freeze' time with images despite time always being in motion.</p>	<p>How was this achieved? The use of photomontage separates each frame of the story into a frozen image - even though these are joined together using traditional narrative film techniques such as voiceover, dissolves, fades and music. As the man begins to 'live' more and more in the 'past' with his lover, the space between these frames speeds up to resemble 'motion picture' speed at one point. The stuffed animals in the museum are also 'frozen' in a single moment. Your own idea: I think the intention of the film was to show that time can trap everyone and that even memory is affected by this concept. The photography is used to show time freezing.</p>
<p>Aesthetic binary oppositions The use of still photo images is combined with traditional narrative cinematic techniques that bring them 'to life'... until the moment around 18:00 when they flow together.</p>	<p>Effect of these oppositions? Shows the intensity of emotion the narrator feels with his lover: like he is finally 'living' in moving time rather than a series of frozen, separated moments. Your example:</p>

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Inspirations - what ideas did this film give you for your own short film?

<p>Establishing characters, setting, plot, theme</p> <p>My film will not have any named characters and the theme will be that of horror . The plot will follow a mystery that the chaters have to uncover.</p>	<p>Creating enigmas</p>
<p>Narrative structure (non-/linear? Open/ closed ending?)</p> <p>The ending of the film will be open for interpretation.</p>	<p>Striking use of technical features</p> <p>I will use a unique editing style as well as new features.</p>