Reading film

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Film · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
textual analysis	**Textual analysis** looks closely at how a film creates meaning.
film language	**Film language** includes camera, sound, lighting and editing.
mise-en-scène	**Mise-en-scène** is everything you can see in the frame.
cinematography /ˌsɪnɪməˈtɒgrəfi/	**Cinematography** is the use of the camera and light.
editing /ˈedɪtɪŋ/	**Editing** joins shots together.
sound /saʊnd/	**Sound** in a film includes dialogue, music and effects.
high-key lighting	**High-key lighting** is bright and even, often used in comedies.
low-key lighting	**Low-key lighting** has deep shadows, often used in horror films.
shot size	A close-up and a long shot differ in **shot size**.
camera angle	A low **camera angle** makes a character look powerful.
long take	A **long take** shows a scene in one shot without cutting.
montage /ˈmɒntɑːʒ/	A **montage** shows many short shots to show time passing.

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continuity editing	**Continuity editing** makes cuts smooth so the viewer does not notice them.
diegetic sound /ˌdaɪəˈdʒetɪk saʊnd/	**Diegetic sound** comes from inside the story, like a door slamming.
non-diegetic sound /ˌnɒndaɪəˈdʒetɪk saʊnd/	**Non-diegetic sound**, like background music, comes from outside the story.
denotation	The **denotation** of a red rose is simply a flower.
connotation /kɒnəˈteɪʃn/	The **connotation** of a red rose is love.
significance /sɪgˈnɪfɪkəns/	Explain the **significance** of each piece of evidence.
context /ˈkɒntekst/	Knowing the **context** of a film helps you understand its message.
neorealism	Italian **neorealism** filmed ordinary people on real streets.