

Mise en Scène Analysis

1. **Dominant.** Where is our eye attracted first? Why?
2. **Lighting key.** High key? Low key? High contrast? Some combination of these?
3. **Shot and camera proxemics.** What type of shot? How far is the camera from the action?
4. **Angle.** Are we (and the camera) looking up or down on the subject? Or is the camera neutral (eye level)?
5. **Color values.** What is the dominant color? Are there contrasting foils? Is there color symbolism?
6. **Lens/filter/stock.** How do these distort or comment on the photographed materials?
7. **Subsidiary contrasts.** What are the main eye-stops after taking in the dominant?
8. **Density.** How much visual information is packed into the image? Is the texture stark, moderate, or highly detailed?
9. **Composition.** How is the two-dimensional space segmented and organized? What is the underlying design?
10. **Form.** Open or closed? Does the image suggest a window that arbitrarily isolates a fragment of the scene? Or a proscenium arch, in which the visual elements are carefully arranged and held in balance?
11. **Framing.** Tight or loose? Do the characters have no room to move around, or can they move freely without impediments?
12. **Depth.** On how many planes is the image composed? Does the background or foreground comment in any way on the midground?
13. **Character placement.** What part of the framed space do the characters occupy? Center? Top? Bottom? Edges? Why?
14. **Staging positions.** Which way do the characters look vis-à-vis the camera?
15. **Character proxemics.** How much space is there between the characters?

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