Kenadee Taylor

Adv. English

Mrs. Olinger

December 9, 2012

Tim Burton Style Analysis

Everybody in this world is different. Some people are short, while others are tall. Some people turn back-flips, while others play Mozart. Some people are poor, while others are rich. Some people have scissors for hands, and other have a great love for chocolate. In a Tim Burton film, specific music and lighting helps bring out the difference in all his characters.

The music in Tim Burton’s films are often composed with violins. The violins bring a very mysterious sound, and make the films almost confusing until the end. During “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory,” Wonka takes the kids and their parents to a completely edible room. When one of the kids falls in the chocolate river, the music starts off quiet, and a little bouncy. Only the Oompa-Loompas seem to know what is happening. Everyone else is very confused on how the Oompa-Loompas know exactly what to sing about, and how. This music shows that the chocolate factory is a lot weirder and more mysterious then it seems on the outside. Also, before anybody was invited into the factory, everyone thought that Wonk was a cruel man for closing the factory. When the music came out lively and sort of loopy, they had different thoughts. Another one of Tim Burton’s films that uses this kind of music is, “Edward Scissor Hands.” When Edward is carving an angle out of ice, Kim comes out and starts dancing in the ice shavings, or snow. Everyone had kind of turned against Edward at this point, but Kim still likes him. When Kim comes out you start to hear music. It is soft, and played with violins. It shows how Kim still liked Edward even though everyone else is turning away from him. Music, if used properly, can convey themes to fit the scene, which reflects on the characters and how, and why, they are acting the way they are.

Lighting in Tim Burtons films, is very distinguished. If it is low key lighting, you know something bad is going to happen. If it is high key lighting, you know all is well, and everyone is happy. During “Edward Scissor Hands,” everyone wants Edward to cut their hair, their dogs’ hair, and their hedges. While Edward is cutting, it is midday, the sun is shining, and everyone is having a great time. The bright lighting shows that everyone is enjoying themselves, including Edward. However that is not the case. Edward is only happy because the others are accepting him. Another example of lighting comes from the film, “Big Fish.” While Ed is wandering through the woods, the only source of lighting he has is the full moon. Full moons tend to make things scarier than they really are. Ed seems to think the trees are trying to strangle him, when really he is just in a thicker part of the woods, when he remembers that was not the way he would die. The trees appear to jump back, and he stepped out of the woods into daylight. Lighting had a big effect on this scene, because when it was dark Ed was scared, and alone, but when he remembered something that was reassuring, he stepped into daylight. When he saw the sun, he was relieved. Lighting can play tricks on peoples’ minds, and make them think unrealistic thoughts. It conveys the theme of not judging what you see, to what is really going on.

Cinematic elements help to convey moods, and themes. The main theme you get from all three of these films is, “Do not judge someone, or something, by how it looks. Figure out what is going first, and then make up your mind about it.” People often judge others first by appearance, and second by their personality. If you continue to do this, you might miss out on something greater then it appears.