 Resource 4

Scene breakdown – Billy Elliot

Directions: Use these questions to help you analyse a key scene. Remember that everything about a text is a conscious choice of the composer/director. Consider how each choice brings out meaning.

Scene:

Character(s)

1. Who is in the scene?
2. What is each person(s) motivation in this scene? (i.e. what are they trying to achieve?)
3. How do costumes contribute to the characters?

Setting

1. Where is the scene set?
2. Why is this setting significant?

Context

1. What is the historical, cultural, and/or political context of this scene?

Frame (mise-en-scene)

1. What is in the shot?
2. What is centered in the shot, and what is excluded?
3. What type of shot is used (long shot, close-up etc.)?
4. What is in focus? Is anything blurred?
5. What is the intended impact of the frame on the audience?

Camera work

1. What camera angles/shots are used?
2. How does the camera move? What effect does camera movement have on viewers?
3. What effect does the editing have on you?

Mood and Soundtrack

1. Is there music? How and when is it used? What is its effect? What mood does it create?
2. Are there other sound effects?
3. How else besides music is the mood created?