Level 1 English 2014 1.2 external Film

**Film: Slumdog Millionaire** Exc (7) Jack

*Describe at least ONE important idea the director/creator developed throughout the text(s). Explain how this idea helped you to understand an* ***important message for teenagers****, supporting your points with visual and/or oral language features.*

In the film Slumdog Millionaire directed by Danny Boyle we will describe and explain at least one important idea on the extent and effects of poverty in India. India is a country with a growing influence and is one of our trading partners. It is also good to understand some of the issues that India is facing too. Boyle conveys his powerful idea of poverty by using a variety of techniques including camera shots, lighting, costume and dialogue.

In the first flashback scene we are shown that children in poverty have no safe place to play. We are shown a close up shot of a boy as he bowls a cricket ball. The camera then pans back to show children playing on an airport runway. Planes fly closely overhead showing that these children are in a lot of danger. Guards chase them on bikes shouting, “If the planes don’t kill you, we will!” I felt sorry for these children when I realised that they had no safe place to play. Children in poverty are finding it hard to find safe places to play. This scene helped me understand an important message for teenagers about children having no place to play, because even today there is still poverty in India. It is relevant to today’s society because of this. It made me realise just how lucky we are in New Zealand to have even simple playing structures, and I’m sure the audience felt lucky too.

Boyle then warps us into the next scene showing us the extent of the Juhu slums. We are shown a shot of the children from the airport leaping over tarpaulin roofed huts. We see dutch angle shots as the children run down alleyways. The camera is also very jerky which gives us the sense of chaos. A median shot of a boy shows he is sorting rubbish in a dirty river. We start to see still shots of the slums shown from a birds-eye point of view from the sky to show just how vast the slums are. I was quite shocked when I saw this scene and I think that it helped me understand an important message for teenagers because it shows what the living conditions in the slums are like even today. I was also quite shocked when I saw the last shot of this scene because it showed me just how vast and huge the slums really are. The Indian government denied that they use the aerial shots of the slums for a while because they did not want people to see the extent of the slums. A while later I discovered that in the film the worst parts of the slums were cut out also.

This next scene shows that children in poverty are vulnerable to child exploitation. A yellow bus pulls up to an orphanage with Jamel and Salim in the bus. We are then shown that most of the children at the orphanage are on crutches but the lighting suggests nothing too sinister. Later on we get shown a dark room with a blue spotlight shining in the middle of the room. Arvind sings to Maman. Maman tells him his singing is good. His dialogue is, “very good, he’s ready”.

Salim watches with uneasiness as Arvind is chloroformed. Maman’s right-hand man Punnose gets a spoonful of hot acid and pours it over Arvind’s eyes. Salim turns back into the shadows and in horror, vomits. Arvind is blindfolded while an extreme low-angle, close up shot shows Maman looking on impassively. I was horrified when I saw this scene and I am sure the whole audience cringed. I think Boyle’s purpose that helped me understand an important message for teenagers here is to show how children who get exploited suffer so much and the fact that children lose their eyes or limbs just so gangs can make money out of them is horrific. I also found out on the internet that about 44,000 children a year are exploited by gangs wanting money, which I think is horrible and needs to be stopped.

This film showed me how bad poverty can be in India. India is a country with a growing population with many children being vulnerable to child exploitation. There are still vast areas of slums where people still struggle living in poverty. I was shocked when I heard recently that the Indian government had launched a rocket into space. I was shocked because they could have used the money they spent on the rocket to help the worst of people living in poverty. However, India is becoming a growing nation and we need to be ware of India’s potential. I know charities like “World Vision”, and “Save the Children”, are doing amazing work for people living in poverty. I know I cannot do much to help but I can do my bit, and the film has inspired me to do so.