Level 1 English 2014 1.2 External Visual Louise Ex (8)

Film - Slumdog Millionaire

90850 Show understanding of specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), using supportive evidence.

*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, one important idea that helped me to understand an important message for teenagers is the extent and effects of poverty in India. Boyle portrays this important idea through the use of visual and oral language feature such as lighting, dialogue, camera angles and costume. Boyle’s purpose is to help us understand how important his message about the extent and effects of poverty is and how it affects the teenagers of the future.

Boyle begins to show us that there is no safe place to play in an early scene of the film. We are shown a group of children playing cricket on an airstrip when suddenly the scene is filled with a low angle shot of a plane trying to land. The scene is then interrupted by two very angry-looking guards who yell, “If the planes don’t kill you, we will!” This just goes to show how much children or teenagers in wealthy places such as New Zealand take for granted. Many children in India don’t have safe places to play as shown on the airstrip in the film. Boyle’s purpose helped me understand his message towards teenagers because many children or teenagers in New Zealand play in safe areas such as parks, but in India, they are forced to play in dangerous environments such as the airstrip. I was shocked to see the young children playing on that dangerous airstrip as if they were dancing with death.

Boyle continues to show us just how important it is to know the extent and effects of poverty in India with a scene of an overcrowded Juhu slum. A panning shot displays what some of the housing in India is like. The scene is then thrown into the heart of the Juhu slum. A close up of a one-eyed dog pans back to reveal more of the slum. Boyle’s play on term, “slumdog” emphasises the dog scene and relates it back to the title of the film. A hand-held camera is used to, in Boyle’s words, “throw the audience right in”. The scene continues with more footage of the slum. This is an important message for teenagers because some teenagers don’t realise just how bad the slums are in India and how it could affect the living styles of people not only in India but around the world. I will never forget the state of the slums and I will always remember to take what I have been given because that’s what the people living in the slums do.

Boyle continues to shock us even more when the scene changes to child exploitation. It is black night and Maman sits in his chair with his face in half shadow. The bluey lighting creates a nightmarish quality as the spotlights shine down on the cobblestone courtyard revealing mossy steps. Maman reminds me of the character Fagan from Oliver Twist. As the Fagan-like Maman sits in his throne, an over shoulder shot of a young boy singing, Arvind, stops as Maman gets up from his seat. Maman thanks Arvind for singing and calls one of the villagers over who chloroforms little Arvind. The villager then calls upon a young orphan, Salim, to move the lamp on the table so he can place Arvind’s unconscious body there. Salim performs this task, but is soon shocked as to what lies ahead for little Arvind. As Arvind lays on the table, the villager brings over a spoonful of a hot unknown liquid and pours it over Arvind’s eyes. As soon as that task is done, a bloody rage is placed over his eyes telling us that they have done this before.

I was disgusted to see how little children are treated as a result of poverty and child exploitation. This scene is one of the most important messages for teenagers because of child exploitation and how it affects the lives of many children in India every year. About 2000- 3000 children are taken each year by gangs and fake orphanages like Maman’s. The children are then physically and mentally altered and made to beg for money out on the street. I found this scene to be unforgettable but interesting because it shows us that child exploitation is still a recessive issue that needs to stop.

In the film *Slumdog Millionaire* directed by Danny Boyle, one important idea that was expressed throughout the film was the extent and effects of poverty in India. Boyle’s purpose was to help us understand how bad the poverty really is and how it will affect the future generation of teenagers, not only in India, but all over the world.

With further research, I found out that many children in India who would like to play soccer on the grass beside parks are not allowed to because it, “spoils the grass” said guards patrolling the area. This left many Indian spokespeople outraged as to why the Indian government is allowing rockets to be flown to Mars and expensive buildings to be built, but no safe places for the future Indian generation to play on. This is very important for the world to know and understand especially teenagers because it could affect them in the future without them knowing it. This film teaches us that you can make something out of nothing like the children playing on the airstrip do when playing cricket.