

ENGLISH STANDARD

Witness

SCENE ANALYSIS

Murdering scene

- Absence of music, only diegetic sounds of running water and footsteps contrast to the previous scene where there's music, hence create a different atmosphere, foreshadowing that something crucial is going to happen.
- Use of long shots, medium shots to close-ups from Samuel's eye view on the stranger who is washing his face – indicates the focused character in this scene, hence foreshadows that something will happen between him and Samuel.
- Through a medium shot on the stranger, we are able to see the entering of the two cops reflected in the mirror and walking across in the foreground. But the focus is still on the stranger as the other two characters are blurred. This then transits to a close-up on one of the cops giving a sign through nodding. The unusual silence with frequent change in focusing different characters builds an unusual and uncomfortable atmosphere, again, foreshadows that something will happen but in a strong negative sense. The tension is then built up through a sudden start of urgent-like horrific background music as the two cops start attacking the stranger. The tension strengthened through screams and close-up on the dagger.
- An extreme close-up on Samuel's eye with the screams and music background, it highlights Samuel's innocence, as a result build up the tension furthermore as the audience are engaged to think for Samuel (they don't want him to get into the trouble), hence reinforcing the violence.
- Switches between Samuel's face and eyes to the victim and blood – reinforcing violence.

Taxi Scene

- Medium shots – depicting Rachel and Samuel wearing their Amish costumes, speaking in their language in the foreground, whereas the scenes outside the window in the background. This juxtaposes with Book and his companion's modern "English" costumes, the diegetic sound of vehicles, and their "English" dialogues.
- In this scene, Rachel and Samuel's non-conformity and disrespect to the "English" society and cultures is strongly depicted.

Hot Dog Scene

- Amish costume (showing non-conformity).
- Long shot – Rachel and Samuel's pray juxtaposing with Book eating.
- Vehicles, modern buildings, "English" costumes non-pure wood furniture in background and vehicle sounds juxtaposing Rachel and Samuel praying in their Amish costume.
- Cuts between long-shot to close-ups on Rachel then Samuel's praying faces, then to Book's uncomfortable and shocked facial expression – creating an uncomfortable tone.

- Absence of music – engage the audience to perceive the juxtapositions by hearing diegetic sounds of vehicles and visualising Rachel and Samuel’s actions and appearances.

Breakfast Scene

- Slightly low-angled long shot capturing Book with the Lapp’s family – showing their pray and costume, thus indicating Book’s conformity towards the Amish customs. (juxtaposed with the hot dog scene).
- Dark and warm lighting is incorporated to create a welcoming atmosphere.
- Silence is used to allow the audience to focus on the scene and the theme it is conveying.