

# Mise-en-Scène

## What is Mise-en-Scène?

- A French term meaning what is put into a scene or frame
- Visual information in front of the camera
- Communicates essential information to the audience
- made up of various elements

## Elements of Mise-en-Scène?

1. Settings & Props
2. Costume, Hair & Make Up
3. Facial Expressions & Body Language
4. Lighting and Colour
5. Positioning of characters/objects within the frame

The following research activities will help familiarise you with the concept and develop image interpretational and analytical skills.

Consider the questions below to provide a framework for your blog and a brief summary of what you have learnt.

# Research Activity 1

Can you describe how the elements of Mise-en-Scène in the following scene?

Watch the following scene

- *Snow White* (Disney Studios, 1937)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB7O\\_JlxGuY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cB7O_JlxGuY)

## 1. Settings & Props

Queen's Laboratory: Gothic stonework, arches, skulls, vials, cauldron, grimoire—props are pointedly macabre, signaling danger and dark magic.

Apple: color from dark green to glossy reds. When dipped, the poison "bleeds" over it like a skull mask, turning the surface into a visual metaphor for beauty concealing rot and danger.

## 2. Costume, Hair & Make Up

For the witch, she wears a black ragged cloak, which refers to the color symbolic that black means evil and dark. Her face is pale with warts on it, and her hand and face were shaped like an eagle, using the anthropomorphism method to externalize the savage and inner corruption.



For snow white, she has bright color costumes (blue bodice with rounded sleeves, yellow skirt, red bow), which make her a clear silhouette that stands out from the dusty background. She has bobbed

hair and bright pink cheek makeup, showing her innocence, youth, and attractiveness



### 3. Facial Expressions & Body Language

For witch: she has an exaggerated fake smile and sneaky movement that shows her internal evil purpose of hurting Snow white

For snow white, she has an innocent and bright smile that shows she is as pure as paper and cannot recognize danger.

### 4. Lighting and Colour

Laboratory

- Low-key lighting with strong chiaroscuro: deep shadows carve the stone textures; the cauldron's underlight casts ghoulish greens onto the hag's face and hands.
- Poison apple: Sickly greens, purples, and inky blacks dominate, punctuated by the apple's saturated red. The red operates as a visual alarm bell and temptation simultaneously.

### 5. Positioning of characters/objects within the frame

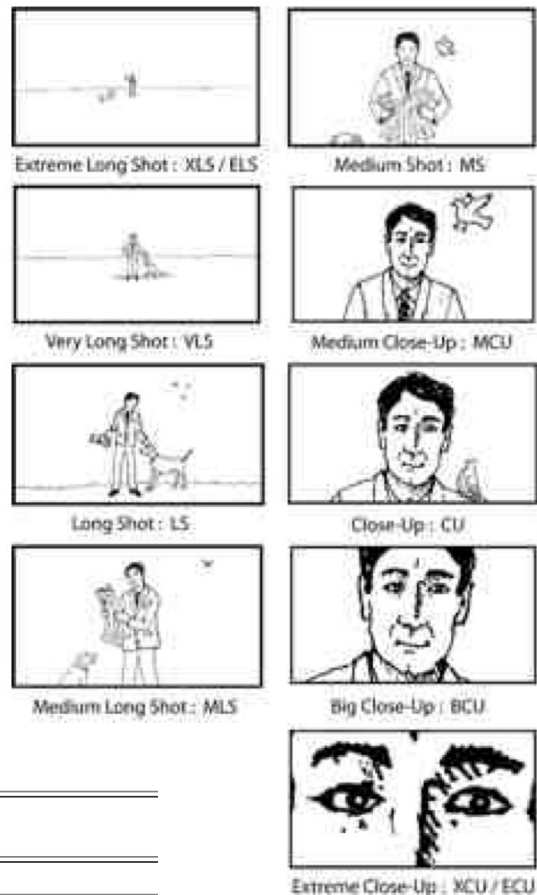
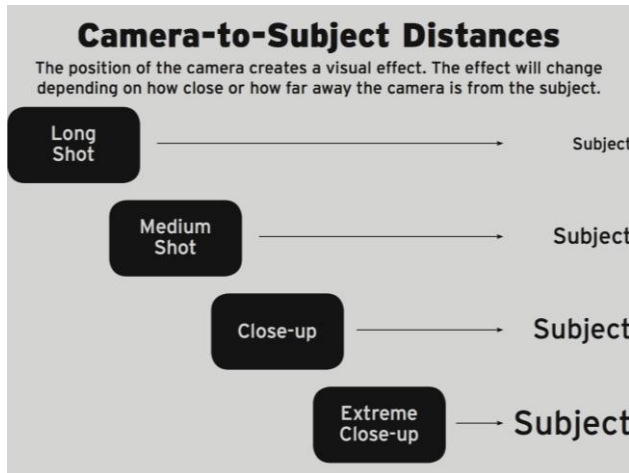
In the lab, the hag is often low and forward in the frame, with towering verticals behind—diminutive yet dominant, encircled by instruments of control. The cauldron regularly occupies the foreground to assert its narrative primacy.

During the approach to the cottage, the hag is framed through branches or over rocks, using foreground occludes to create depth and a stalking perspective.

## High Key Lighting

## Low Key Lighting

## Natural Lighting



## Low Angle Shot

Signifier (shot)	Definition	Signified
close-up	face only	intimacy
medium shot	most of the body	personal relationship
long shot	setting & characters	context, scope, public distance
full shot	full body of person	social relationship
pan down	camera looks down	power, authority
pan up	camera looks up	smallness, weakness
zoom in	camera moves in	observation, focus
fade in	image appears on blank screen	beginning
fade out	image screen goes blank	ending
cut	switch from one image to another	simultaneity, excitement
wipe	image wiped off screen	imposed

