

**Activity: Students watched the film “ET The Extra Terrestrial” and completed a series of questions on film techniques**

**Student Work Sample**

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**SCENE 1**

1. How does the film open and why does Spielberg not overlay the credits over the plot? Why are the opening credits a separate sequence? How do they create a different mood than the mood of the next scene?

Spielberg separates the credits and the first plot scenes so there is nothing to distract from the story told through visual ques. The title card and the credits through the colouring and music build suspense and draw the viewer in. This changes slightly with the beginning of the first scene as the music softens and the mood while still suspenseful becomes more curious and child-like.

2. Why do the filmmakers deprive viewers of seeing E.T. and his species’ faces in the first scene? How do they do so cinematically?

People are generally more afraid of things that they can’t see - in the dark or under the surface of the water and so on so by showing parts of the aliens there is suspense and some fear. Cinematically they use cut-away shots and extreme close ups to show lots of detail without revealing the true shape or features of the creatures.

3. How does the non-diegetic/background score change when the trucks arrive? Why?

To indicate the arrival of the antagonist in the movie and change the mood of the scene when the trucks arrive the background score got more energetic and introduced heavy percussion. This speeds up the heart rate and puts the viewers on the edge of the seat as they feel some of the fear that the aliens would be feeling.

4. How are the truck drivers able to follow E.T.?

They are able to follow E. T. because his heart is glowing giving away his position because he is being called by the other aliens on the ship.

5. What is E.T.’s ship forced to do? Why? What does E.T. do to escape danger?

The ship is forced to leave without E.T. as they don't want to be caught by the humans and to get away from the humans E.T. is forced to move towards human houses.

