

MEMENTO

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Film Study Notes

Visuals—unusual, startling or outstanding

Sound—Describe any unusual sounds? How used? Background? Foreground? Was it subtle or did it stand out?

Music—Describe any music you noticed. Style, tempo, upbeat, downbeat

Setting or Location—What details stand out?

Violence—How did the filmmakers handle the violence in this film?

Characters—What is the credibility of the characters—believable? Realistic?

1. Literary Terms

Below is a list of literary terms that can apply to an art form whether it be a play, a painting, a novel, or a film. Think of examples of the terms as they appeared in the movie *Memento*. Then write them on the lines provided in each item below.

Terms: **conflict, climax, metaphor, inciting incident, symbolism, flashback**

1. Considering the strange structure of this film, what is the inciting incident? Defend your answer.

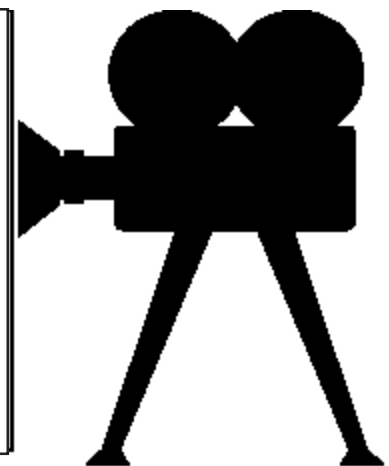
2. How was flashback used in this film?

3. What was an example of irony that was used effectively in this film?

4. Describe a scene that used an unusual camera angle? Was it effective?

5. What was the climax of the film? Defend your answer.

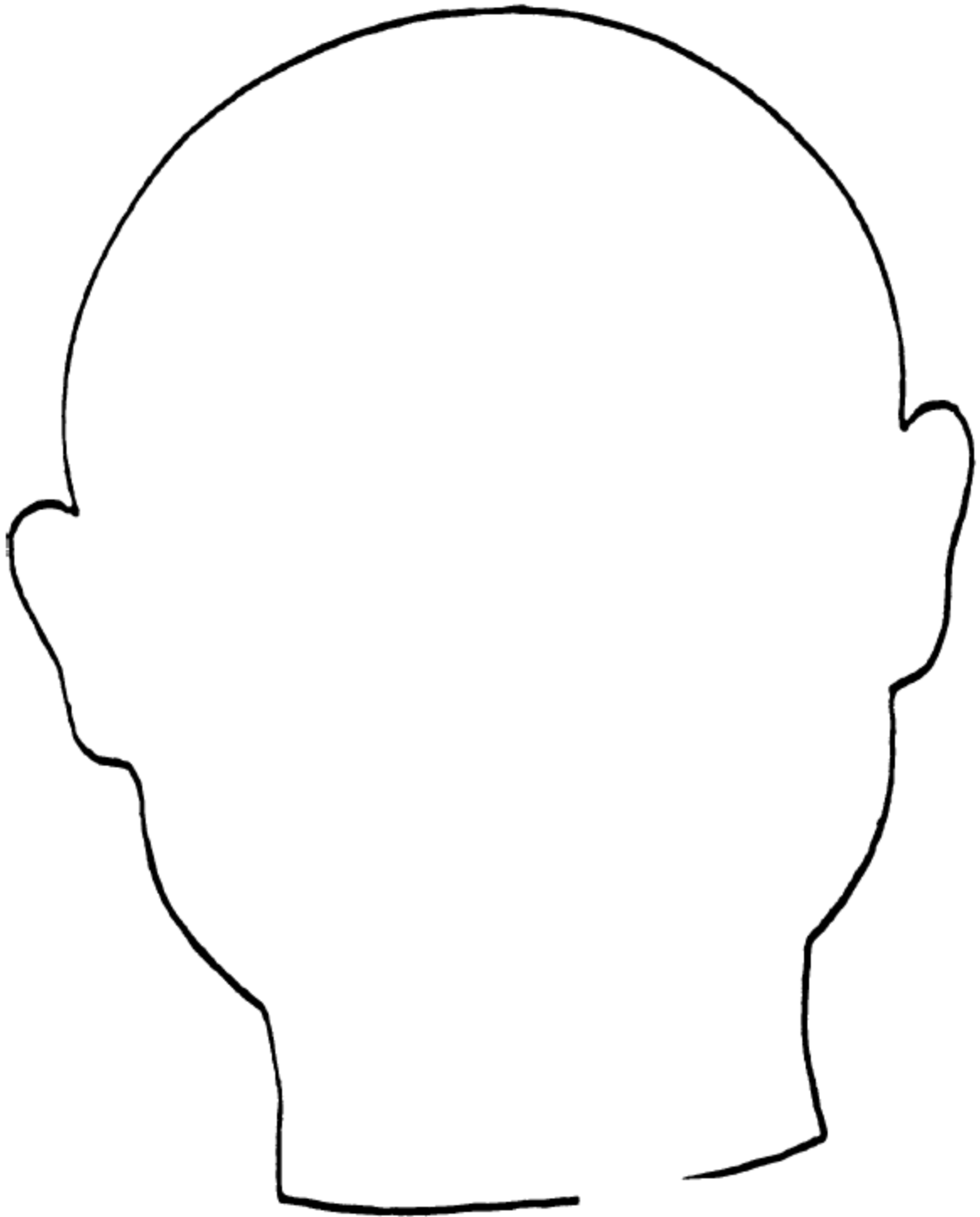
Inciting Incident: That which has to occur in the beginning for the film to be the same film. The event or crisis that begins the plot of the film.



4. The Revenge Film Noir

Description of Film Noir	Descriptive Scenes from <i>Memento</i> that illustrate the concept
a) Dark, shadowy, contrasty images filmed in black and white, often at night and usually in a gritty urban setting	
b) Hard-boiled, cynical, disillusioned characters — who are nevertheless usually likable	
c) A male protagonist facing a moral dilemma and/or some kind of threat	
d) An alluring, independent and usually dangerous woman	
e) A crime or detective story	
f) Flashbacks	
g) A voice-over narration	
h) Crisp, often witty dialog, sprinkled with great one-liners	
i) A healthy dose of paranoia or, at the very least, a strong sense of insecurity, betrayal, or being trapped	
k) Angst	
l) No happy ending.	

—from Flippo, Hyde (1998). *The Noir Connection* as cited in “Christopher Nolan’s *Memento* – Analysis of the narrative structure of a *noirish revenge film* “



Leonard Shelby

Illustrate your concept of this man. Use images or words or both.

