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MIT1070B 002

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Project Summary

My stills capture a character's experience with *melancholy*. Melancholy is described as a gloomy state of mind. These images depict one's thoughts simply through a mundane setting and a focus on the character's facial expressions. The setting is insignificant as it's simply an accessary to the character's evolving emotions. To further push this project, I may add music or a voice-over to explicitly display the inner thoughts going through the mind of the character, to direct the audience into the right direction when making assumptions about the topic.

The initial four shots are masked with a black and white filter, representing the character's past blissful memories shown through her smile and body language. She is care-free as she uses her facial expressions as a vessel to exude pure happiness through dance and laughter. The later six shots drastically change the atmosphere of the project. There are vibrant features like the children's playground in these shots; however, these playful colours are juxtaposed by the character's facial expression portraying feelings of pensive sadness. The subtle, yet powerful differences in the first four shorts to the last six display sharp discrepancies between the two states of mind: blissfulness and melancholy.

The uninteresting setting of a public park and public transit dissociates the character from the setting and connects the images to the character's emotions. The stills captured have a purposefully subtle plot line, as it creates an opportunity for the audience to draw opinions through their own experience.

Melancholy is beyond sadness, it's a word that describes a state of mind that is overwhelmed by sorrow, yet it's a feeling people often experience. The subtle changes in the character's facial expression depict how mental illnesses can easily go unnoticed by peers. As someone who has experienced deep melancholy, I think this project could further push people to check up on their personal well-being as well as those close to them. This project can allow the audience to acknowledge their experiences of melancholy; thus, contributing to the conversation surrounding mental health.

An Apple iPhone 7 was used to capture the photos in this exercise.   Word Count: 336

Photo Captions

01: Girl smiling while waiting for streetcar. Medium Close Up & Eye Level Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189).

02: Girl giggling outside while dancing. Medium Long Shot & Low Angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 189).

03: Girl smiling at camera. Close-Up (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Flat Space (Block, 16-18).

04: Girl's smile fading while looking to the side. Medium Shot & Fast Motion (Bordwell and Thompson, 189).

05: Girl walking away with skateboard. Ambiguous Space & One-Point Perspective (Block, 16-18).

06: Girl about to go down children's slide. Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Deep Space (Block, 16-18).

07: Girl's resting face. Close-Up (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Limited Space (Block, 16-18).

08: Girl seated in the middle of the road, unbotherd. Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Flat Space (Block, 16-18).

09: Girl looking away from the camera. Medium Close Up (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Low Angle (Block, 16-18).

10: Girl waiting again for streetcar, thinking. Medium Long Shot (Bordwell and Thompson, 189) & Deep Space (Block, 16-18).