

The scene I have chosen to analyse from “The Dark Knight” directed by Christopher Nolan is the final scene involving the confrontation between Batman, Harvey Dent and Gordon and his family. I have chosen to analyse my scene because it is the end of the film and so the events of the whole film all lead to my scene and the overall outcome is decided. Some aspects I have chosen to analyse in my scene are ideas, lighting, dialogue and character actions which all work to create suspense and atmosphere and to finalise the plot of the film.

The dialogue in my scene helps our understanding of the scene and the characters. For example Gordon, while staring at Dent’s scarred face says “...Whatever chance Gotham had of fixing itself dies with Harvey’s reputation. We bet it all on him. **The Joker took the best of us and tore him down.** People will lose all hope”. This shows just how skilled a criminal the Joker was and that **not even Gotham’s white knight, Harvey Dent could fight the Joker’s evil.** Gordon sees the scarred face of Dent before saying this which shows that the Joker had managed to turn Dent ‘evil’ in the end even though it would have been totally unexpected by viewers earlier on showing how unpredictable the Joker is. Gordon also believes that there is no hope now for Gotham and its citizens if they were to find out how the Joker managed to turn Dent evil. Dent, Batman and Gordon had cleaned up Gotham of its many criminals and the citizens relied on them but the Joker tore all that down by taking down Dent-one of the few people Gotham relied on. **If the Joker could take down the city’s white knight, then there was no hope of fixing Gotham** (1).

Lighting is a very important aspect in my scene. **The whole scene is lit dark – to a point where the viewer can only see the characters at some points** and cannot see the surroundings. **This high level of darkness creates atmosphere** for the ending of the film and also emphasises the evil surrounding Harvey Dent. Having my scene in darkness creates a tense atmosphere to end the film. As viewers can only see the characters through most of the scene they focus on them which is the **director’s intention to create suspense as to who will live or die,** such as when Dent, Gordon and Batman are shown separately during their confrontation. This live-or die idea is also linked to Harvey Dent’s actions of flipping the coin. Both create a sense of anxiety within the audience. The darkness of the scene is also related to the negativity of it due to Harvey Dent’s evil. The darkness shows Dent’s evil presence in the scene due to his actions earlier on and his terrorizing of Gordon’s family. The moonlight shining on the good side of Harvey’s face at the beginning before moving to the bad side shows the lack of good now in once a full – good man. By lighting the good side at the beginning it makes Dent look completely normal and it shows the hope that the audience and the people of Gotham had in Dent to do well. **By turning the light to the bad side it shows how the Joker’s evil has completely taken over Dent** and taken all the good from him. This creates a sense of foreboding for the audience. The lighting in my scene foreshadows that the film will not have a

happy ending although there is a chance of better things to come with Batman riding into the light out of the dark tunnel as the film closes (2).

Character actions are an important part in showing characters personality to the viewer and to help show their position in the plot. This is important in my scene because what the characters do will determine which one of them will live or die and we have an expectation that someone will die in the final scene. Harvey Dent's character is the most notable in my scene by actions such as his flipping of his coin to decide people's fates. By doing this he shows that he no longer cares about people and he is willing to put their lives on the line in a coin toss. This shows the evil effect Rachel's death has had on him and how deranged that has made him. Rachel's death has also influenced him to take Gordon's family hostage and threaten them with the gun because Gordon is one of the many he blames for Rachel's demise. This also shows the idea that evil has taken over Dent and how he no longer cares for others. He is prepared to let Gordon's family die for other peoples mistakes (his, Gordon's and Batman's). When Gordon snaps after Dent points the gun at Gordon's son it shows how the deranged Dent wants Gordon to feel the same as he did when Rachel died. By telling Gordon to tell his son "everything will be alright" he is repeating what he told Rachel in the warehouse before she died because Batman and the other by default chose to save him instead. Batman's actions in my scene also show his devotion to the city of Gotham. By taking the blame for all the deaths at the hands of the Joker and by covering up what happened to Dent and what Dent did, Batman has chosen to make himself look like the villain to the people of Gotham. However he is actually protecting them because if they found out how the Joker ruined Dent and turned him evil causing him to do the things he did, they will lose all hope in fixing Gotham (as mentioned earlier)(3)

In conclusion these aspects all help to conclude the film and leave the viewer with suspense for a sequel. My scene is linked to the real life idea of corruption and the effects it can have on individuals – such as what happened to Dent in the scene and in the community's – the city of Gotham that Dent was responsible for protecting.

