

In the movie 'The Dark Knight' by Christopher Nolan an important scene I chose to analyse was the opening scene of the bank robbery. The aspects I analysed were lighting, theme, camera work and characters actions.

Lighting is used to signal to the audience that the Joker has a lack of humanity. When he took his mask off and revealed himself in the bank robbery scene, the screen had a green tinge to it showing the audience that he had a lack of humanness to him in the way he looked with his green, greasy hair and in the way he acted without humanity to the hostages in the bank. (1)

Camera work shows who is in control in the bank robbery scene. The Joker reveals himself by taking off the mask the camera moves to a low angle shot looking up at the Joker to make him look more powerful and dominant. The bank manager is on the floor and the camera looks down at him making it a high angle shot so he looks afraid and less dominant. These shots show the audience that the Joker is in control and that the bank manager is not. We feel tension and anxiety wondering if the bank manager's life will be spared (2).

Character's actions throughout the first scene were good. The Joker lies to his accomplices about the dirty work they were doing. He set them all up to be killed by each other during the robbery, by saying if you kill one it's one less share and more money for you. The Joker shows us how ruthless and selfish he is. How he only lives for himself and plays mind games with people. He also shows how sinister he is by putting grenades into the hostage's hands and one into the bank manager's mouth. One of the clown criminals says "obviously we don't want any of you doing anything with your hands, other than holding onto dear life". The Joker would be amused by that sort of behaviour because he finds everything a joke after all that's why he has the name of 'The Joker' he likes to see people be petrified in their last moments of life (3).

The theme of greed is shown in this scene through the characters actions. Gotham City has a circle of greedy criminals all after money and they do whatever it takes to get it. This is shown when all the accomplices in the bank robbery attempt to kill each other so that there will be fewer shares increasing the remaining criminals share. In the end none of them get anything because they all get killed by each other. This shows the audience that greed initially caused them to rob the bank and even though they were successful in robbing the bank by working together their greed caused their further downfall because they were willing to do anything to have more of the money even killing one another (4).