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Film and Literature

### Anatomy of a Scene

The use of colors in the film La La Land shows numerous aspects of the relationship between Sebastian and Mia. Currently, let's see how it visually represents the different stages and emotions they're feeling as their connection grows throughout the movie.

At the beginning of this scene, the lighting and camera are focused on Mia's mixture of sadness and regret as shown by her expression. Alongside the slight zoom-in, it reveals how much she still loves Sebastian after 5 long years. With the spotlight on her, the rest of the scene goes through her perspective of what happened. The long shot of Mia's perspective establishes the environment she's in while also showing off the vibrant colors shown throughout the film. One of them is yellow, which shows that a change is happening in either one of their lives. In this case, Sebastian meeting Mia changed their lives. Alongside this, the camera is constantly following someone showing headshots and body shots. The headshots, being mostly close-ups, vividly show the emotions between both characters and the body shots are to establish the setting and a transitioning scene into another stage of their relationship.

The next cut shows a brief clip of the next stage of their life, which was to move in together. Mia is wearing pink to sort of reflect her affection she has for Sebastian alongside how at peace she is with him. Moving on, how fast the camera is tracking both characters, can also signify how fast their relationship is. From just meeting each other, to a couple of dates, and then moving in together.

In the scene with Keith, wearing yellow much like the first time we saw him, this moment was a drastic change in Mia and Sebastian's relationship. However, since Sebastian declined Keith's offer, it drastically changed the movie's plotline. From here, the sequence of events varies with the next scene being Mia's play ending with an entire crowd and Sebastian cheering. And when the camera pans back to her, instead of being shocked and staring into the camera much like what the viewers saw the first time, she's happy and looks toward Sebastian.

When they run out backstage, it's shown that Mia is wearing a purple dress and Sebastian with a white suit. The purple dress could signify balance within her life and her relationship with Sebastian due to the fact that she was able to achieve her dream of becoming an actress, expressed as blue, and the slight chance of it happening expressed as red. As they continue to walk through the set the camera pans out to show the whole set, it's shown that every color used throughout the film is perfectly balanced in one place. It all blends together to make one art piece.

The final cut is when Mia gets an audition from the casting crew, with the women a bright yellow. The camera gives the viewer a 2D perspective with the screen only showing the silhouettes of the characters. This drastic change gives the viewers insight into both sides since originally, we were only able to see Mia's perspective. From there, she gets the role and continues her life with Sebastian. The one thing she's always wanted with him.