

Cheat Sheet Literature

1. What is Adaptation?

- **Definition:** Adaptation is the process of modifying a story to fit a different **medium, audience, or cultural context** while maintaining its core essence.
 - **Key Idea:** An adaptation is **second but not secondary**—it stands as an independent creative work.
-

2. Types of Adaptation

1. **Loose Adaptation** – Only basic story elements are retained; major changes occur (e.g., *10 Things I Hate About You* from *The Taming of the Shrew*).
 2. **Faithful Adaptation** – Stays close to the original plot, characters, and themes while adjusting for the new medium (*Harry Potter films*).
 3. **Literal Adaptation** – A word-for-word recreation with minimal change (*BBC's Shakespeare productions*).
 4. **Displaced Setting** – Same story but set in a different time or place (*Hamlet (2000)* set in modern-day New York).
 5. **Acculturated Adaptation** – The story is adapted to fit a new culture (*The Lion King* as an adaptation of *Hamlet*).
 6. **Politicized Adaptation** – Retains literary aspects but re-focuses on political themes.
 7. **Hollywood/Bollywood-ized Adaptation** – Altered for mass commercial appeal (*Bollywood's Devdas adaptations*).
-

3. Elements of Adaptation (What Changes?)

Element	Description
Dialogue	The way characters speak is adjusted (formal vs. casual, cultural changes).

Setting	The location/time period may change to suit a new medium (historical -> modern).
Characters	Characters may be removed, combined, or expanded for clarity.
Visuals	Novels rely on descriptions; films and theater rely on costumes, set design, and CGI.
Space	Theater is confined to a stage, while film has limitless locations.
Time	Novels can take days to read, but films and plays must condense time into 2-3 hours.
Direction	A film director has control over multiple takes and CGI, whereas theater directors rely on live performances.

4. How Adaptation Changes Based on the Source Material

Source -> Adaptation	What Changes?
Novel → Film	Reduction of internal monologues, visual storytelling replaces narration, compression of time.
Novel → Play	Dialogue-driven storytelling, limited settings, characters may be reduced.
Play → Film	More locations, increased use of cinematic techniques like close-ups, special effects.
Short Story → Film	Expansion of characters and subplots to fit a longer runtime.
Poem → Film	Reinterpretation of abstract ideas into visual sequences.
Fairy Tale → Film	Modified for different audiences (e.g., children's versions with simplified language and themes).

5. Differences Between Theater and Film

Aspect	Film	Theater
Time	Can move between past/future (flashbacks, time jumps).	Moves continuously in real-time.
Space	Two-dimensional shots (close-ups, wide shots).	Three-dimensional stage setting.
Language	Uses cinematography + dialogue.	Relies mostly on spoken language.
Direction	Directors can edit, reshoot, and use CGI.	Directors have little control once the play starts.
Settings	Can shift locations instantly.	Confined to a stage.
Costumes	Detailed costumes matching historical/cultural settings.	Costumes must be visible to a live audience.

1. What is a Genre?

- **Definition:** A genre is a category of films that share **similar narrative elements, themes, aesthetic styles, and emotional effects**.
 - **Purpose:** Genres help classify movies and create a **structured storytelling format** with recognizable conventions.
-

2. Types of Genres

Genres are categorized based on **four major components**:

Component	Examples
Setting	Fantasy, War, Western
Theme	Science Fiction, Film Noir, Art Films
Mood	Drama, Comedy, Horror, Thriller, Action/Adventure
Format	Documentary, Animation, Musical

3. Life Cycle of a Genre

Genres evolve through different stages:

Stage	Description	Examples
Primitive	Early films that establish basic conventions, emotionally impactful.	<i>The Great Train Robbery</i> , <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Classical	Genre conventions are solidified and executed in a balanced way.	<i>Stagecoach</i> , <i>Dracula</i> , <i>Frankenstein</i>
Revisionist	Symbolic and intellectual, questions traditional values.	<i>High Noon</i> , <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i>
Parodic	Mocks genre clichés, creating humor.	<i>Blazing Saddles</i> , <i>Scary Movie</i>
Homage	Revisits and updates a genre without mocking it.	<i>Open Range</i> , <i>Chicago</i> , <i>The Ring</i>

4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Genres

✓ Advantages

- **Economy of Storytelling** – Audiences quickly understand story expectations.
- **Focus on Archetypal Ideas** – Reuses universal themes and character types.
- **Comfort of the Familiar** – Predictable structures make films engaging.
- **Encourages Creativity Within a Norm** – Directors can innovate while working within genre traditions.

✗ Disadvantages

- **Stereotypes and Clichés** – Can reinforce predictable or outdated tropes.
 - **Restricts Creativity** – Formulaic storytelling can make films repetitive.
 - **Eliminates Narrative Surprise** – Audiences may predict the story's outcome.
-

5. What is a Documentary?

- **Definition:** A **nonfictional film** that presents real events, facts, or perspectives for **education, historical record, or persuasion.**
- **Key Features:**
 - Based on reality.
 - Often has a specific point of view.
 - Can impact the events being filmed.

Types of Documentaries

Type	Description	Examples
Poetic	Abstract, artistic, focuses on emotions and imagery rather than facts.	<i>Man with a Movie Camera</i>
Expository	Informative, narrated with a strong voice guiding the audience.	<i>Planet Earth</i>
Observational	"Fly-on-the-wall" perspective, unfiltered reality.	<i>Salesman</i>
Participatory	Filmmaker interacts with subjects, influencing the story.	<i>Super Size Me</i>

Reflexive	Examines the filmmaking process itself.	<i>F for Fake</i>
Performative	Mixes personal experience with broader social themes.	<i>Bowling for Columbine</i>

1. Establishing Shot

- **Definition:** A wide shot that introduces the setting and context of a scene.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Establishes time, place, and atmosphere.
 - Gives the audience a sense of location before zooming into specific details.
 - **Common Use:** Opening scenes, transitions between locations.
 - **Example:** A city skyline before moving to a character's apartment.
-

2. Long Shot

- **Definition:** A shot that shows a subject from head to toe, often with the background visible.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Emphasizes the subject in relation to their surroundings.
 - Creates a sense of scale and isolation.
 - **Common Use:** Action scenes, character introductions, and dramatic moments.
 - **Example:** A lone traveler walking across a desert.
-

3. Full Shot

- **Definition:** A shot that frames the entire body of a subject without much extra space.
- **Purpose:**
 - Captures body language and movement.
 - Balances the subject with the surrounding environment.
- **Common Use:** Dance sequences, fight scenes, character entrances.

- **Example:** A hero standing confidently before a battle.
-

4. Medium Shot

- **Definition:** Frames the subject from the waist up.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Focuses on character interactions and gestures.
 - Strikes a balance between action and emotion.
 - **Common Use:** Conversations, general dialogue scenes.
 - **Example:** A character explaining their plan to a group.
-

5. Medium Close-Up

- **Definition:** Frames a subject from the chest up, keeping the focus on facial expressions while still showing some body language.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Enhances emotional impact while retaining context.
 - Provides detail without being too intimate.
 - **Common Use:** Emotional conversations, interviews.
 - **Example:** A character's nervous expression before making a confession.
-

6. Close-Up

- **Definition:** A shot that focuses on a subject's face or a specific detail.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Highlights emotions, reactions, and important details.
 - Makes the audience connect deeply with the subject.
 - **Common Use:** Emotional moments, key dialogue, dramatic reveals.
 - **Example:** A character's teary eyes before delivering a heartbreaking line.
-

7. Extreme Close-Up

- **Definition:** A very tight shot that focuses on a specific feature (eyes, hands, an object).
 - **Purpose:**
 - Creates tension, symbolism, or intensity.
 - Forces the audience to focus on a crucial detail.
 - **Common Use:** Thriller and horror films, emotional moments, foreshadowing.
 - **Example:** A villain's smirk before executing a plan.
-

8. Two-Shot

- **Definition:** A shot that includes two characters in the same frame.
 - **Purpose:**
 - Establishes relationships and dynamics between characters.
 - Balances dialogue scenes and interactions.
 - **Common Use:** Romantic scenes, buddy films, rival confrontations.
 - **Example:** Two best friends laughing together.
-

9. Over-the-Shoulder Shot

- **Definition:** A shot taken from behind a character, showing another subject from their perspective.
- **Purpose:**
 - Creates a sense of involvement, making the audience feel like part of the conversation.
 - Adds tension and focus in confrontational scenes.
- **Common Use:** Interrogations, rivalries, revealing reactions.
- **Example:** A detective questioning a suspect.

Where? → Establishing Shot

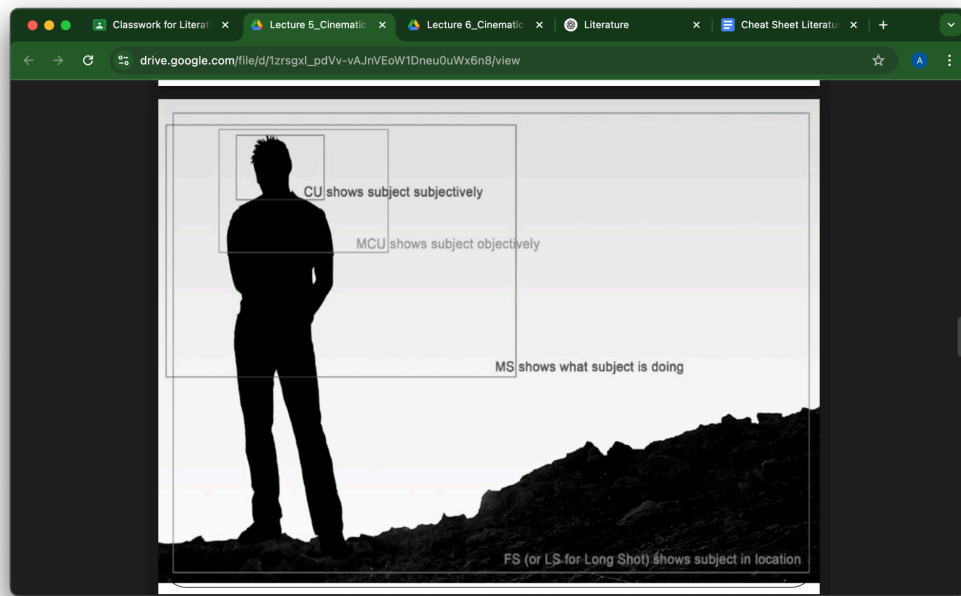
When? → Long Shot

Who? → Full Shot

What? → Medium Shot

How? → Medium Close-Up

Why? → Close-Up & Extreme Close-Up



1. Camera Angles & What They Convey

📌 1. High Angle

- **Definition:** The camera looks down on the subject.
 - **Effect:**
 - Makes the subject appear **weak, vulnerable, or insignificant**.
 - Often used to show **dominance of another character or situation**.
 - **Example:** A villain towering over a defeated hero.
-

📌 2. Eye-Level

- **Definition:** The camera is placed at the subject's eye level.
 - **Effect:**
 - Creates a **neutral, balanced perspective**.
 - Makes the audience feel **connected to the character**.
 - **Example:** A simple conversation between two characters.
-

3. Low Angle

- **Definition:** The camera looks up at the subject.
 - **Effect:**
 - Makes the subject appear **powerful, dominant, or intimidating**.
 - Can also symbolize **heroism or authority**.
 - **Example:** A superhero standing tall after a victory.
-

4. Worm's Eye View

- **Definition:** An extreme low-angle shot taken from the ground looking directly up.
 - **Effect:**
 - Exaggerates **power, size, or mystery**.
 - Often used to make objects or characters look **larger-than-life**.
 - **Example:** A skyscraper towering over a character.
-

5. Bird's Eye View (Overhead Shot)

- **Definition:** The camera is directly overhead, looking straight down.
 - **Effect:**
 - Creates a **god-like, detached perspective**.
 - Can make characters appear **insignificant or trapped**.
 - Often used for **mapping out action sequences**.
 - **Example:** A crime scene shown from above in detective films.
-

6. Point of View (POV) Shot

- **Definition:** The camera shows exactly what a character sees.
 - **Effect:**
 - Immerses the audience into the **character's perspective**.
 - Often used in **horror, thrillers, or introspective moments**.
 - **Example:** The killer's perspective in horror movies (*Halloween*).
-

7. Dutch Angle (Tilted Shot)

- **Definition:** The camera is tilted, creating a **diagonal or off-balance frame**.
 - **Effect:**
 - Conveys **unease, tension, chaos, or psychological instability**.
 - Often used in **thrillers, horror, and action sequences**.
 - **Example:** A character experiencing a mental breakdown.
-

2. Common Symbols in Cinema & Their Meanings

Symbol	Meaning	Examples
Mirrors	Reflection, identity crisis, duality	<i>Black Swan, Fight Club</i>
Water	Transformation, rebirth, cleansing	<i>The Shape of Water, Titanic</i>
Fire	Destruction, passion, rebirth	<i>Joker, Harry Potter</i>
Doors/Windows	Transition, opportunity, entrapment	<i>Rear Window, The Great Gatsby</i>
Clocks/Watches	Passage of time, urgency, mortality	<i>Interstellar, Inception</i>
Birds	Freedom, foreboding, transformation	<i>The Birds, Shawshank Redemption</i>
Red Color	Danger, love, power, violence	<i>Schindler's List, The Sixth Sense</i>
Shadows	Mystery, hidden truths, evil	<i>Nosferatu, Batman</i>

1. Biographical Theory

- **Definition:** Analyzes a work by considering the **author's life, experiences, and personal history**.
 - **Key Idea:** The author's **background and emotions** influence their writing.
-

2. New Historicism

- **Definition:** Focuses on the **historical, cultural, and social context** in which a work was created.
 - **Key Idea:** Literature reflects the **values, beliefs, and issues** of the time period in which it was written.
-

3. Feminist Theory

- **Definition:** Examines **gender roles, power dynamics**, and the representation of **women** in a text.
 - **Key Idea:** Explores how literature **reinforces or challenges patriarchal norms**.
-

4. Marxist Theory

- **Definition:** Analyzes **class struggle, economic systems**, and the **distribution of power**.
- **Key Idea:** Focuses on how **capitalism** influences characters, relationships, and societal structures.

1. Biographical Theory

- **Definition:** Analyzes a film based on the director/writer's life, experiences, and influences.
- **Key Idea:** The creator's background shapes the story, themes, and characters.

Example: *Pulp Fiction* (1994, Quentin Tarantino)

- Tarantino's **love for pop culture, crime movies, and nonlinear storytelling** is reflected in the film's **episodic narrative** and constant references to old Hollywood.
- His experience working at a **video rental store** influenced his ability to blend genres and dialogue styles.
- The film's **stylized violence and dialogue-driven scenes** show Tarantino's **personal storytelling preferences**.

Example: *Alien* (1979, Ridley Scott)

- Scott's fascination with **realism and world-building** is evident in the gritty, industrial design of the spaceship Nostromo.
 - His **interest in mythology** influenced the film's "**monster as a force of nature**" approach.
 - The **Xenomorph design** was inspired by artist **H.R. Giger**, reflecting a fusion of horror and surrealist aesthetics.
-

2. New Historicism Theory

- **Definition:** Examines a film within the **historical, social, and cultural context** in which it was created.
- **Key Idea:** The film reflects the political and cultural attitudes of its time.

Example: *Pulp Fiction*

- The 1990s saw a shift in Hollywood storytelling—**nonlinear narratives and antiheroes** became more popular, influencing Tarantino's writing.
- The film's **postmodern approach**, mixing humor with violence, mirrors the decade's **growing cynicism toward traditional Hollywood storytelling**.
- The characters, especially **Jules (a hitman questioning his morality)**, reflect a time when **philosophy and existentialism** were being explored more deeply in cinema.

Example: *Alien*

- The **late 1970s sci-fi boom** (post-*Star Wars*) influenced the film's **realistic approach to space travel**.
 - Themes of **corporate exploitation** (Weyland-Yutani's disregard for human life) reflect real-world anxieties about **capitalist greed and worker expendability** in the industrial era.
 - The **Cold War paranoia** is evident in the fear of an unknown, uncontrollable alien force disrupting human civilization.
-

3. Feminist Theory

- **Definition:** Examines gender roles, power dynamics, and the representation of women in films.
- **Key Idea:** How does the film **challenge or reinforce patriarchal norms**?

Example: *Pulp Fiction*

- Women have **limited agency**—Mia Wallace is a femme fatale trope, and Fabienne is depicted as weak and dependent.
- **Butch's girlfriend (Fabienne)** plays a passive role, reinforcing gender norms.
- However, **Honey Bunny (Amanda Plummer) is a subversion**—a woman initiating crime, though still dependent on a male partner (Pumpkin).

Example: *Alien*

- **Ellen Ripley (Sigourney Weaver) is a revolutionary feminist icon**—a woman in a traditionally male-dominated genre who becomes the hero.
 - The film **challenges gender stereotypes**—Ripley survives because of intelligence and resourcefulness, not brute strength.
 - The **Xenomorph's design (a blend of male and female reproductive horror)** plays into fears of **violation and bodily autonomy**, making the film a **metaphor for gender-based fears**.
-

4. Marxist Theory

- **Definition:** Analyzes class struggle, capitalism, and social hierarchy within films.

- **Key Idea:** Who holds power, and how does the economic system affect characters?

Example: *Pulp Fiction*

- The film's criminals represent **the working class**, while figures like Marsellus Wallace **exploit and control them**.
- Jules and Vincent, despite their skills, are **just workers following orders**, reinforcing capitalist hierarchies.
- The film's casual approach to violence suggests a **world where power is dictated by wealth and influence**.

Example: *Alien*

- The **Weyland-Yutani Corporation** treats workers as **disposable assets**, reflecting **capitalist exploitation**.
- The crew of the Nostromo is a **working-class team**, doing dangerous labor for a company that ultimately **values profits over their lives**.
- The **Xenomorph** itself represents **the ultimate consumerist fear**—a creature that **exists only to consume and reproduce**, much like unchecked capitalism.

Themes in *Pygmalion*

1. **Social Class & Mobility** – Language determines social status, but true class transformation requires more than speech.
2. **Transformation & Identity** – External changes don't guarantee inner happiness or belonging.
3. **Feminism & Gender Roles** – Eliza's struggle for independence highlights the limited options for women.
4. **Language & Power** – Speech is a tool of **social mobility and discrimination**.
5. **Nature vs. Nurture** – Eliza's growth is due to both **education and self-respect**, not just external refinement.

Eliza's Journey Through Camera Work

1. Opening Scene: Establishing Class Divisions

- **Eliza is framed in a high angle**, showing her **low status**.
- The **rich patrons are captured in low-angle shots**, reinforcing **social hierarchy**.

2. First Meeting with Higgins: Power Struggle

- **Over-the-shoulder shots show Higgins' dominance**.
- **Close-ups on Eliza highlight her frustration and emotional vulnerability**.

3. Final Confrontation: Role Reversal

- Initially, **Higgins is dominant**, but as Eliza asserts herself, **the camera moves to eye level**, signifying **her equality**.
- By the end, **Eliza is filmed from a low angle**, symbolizing **her newfound strength and independence**.

Final Scene: Emotional Closure

- **Soft lighting and warm tones** create **intimacy** and contrast with Higgins' earlier emotional detachment.
- The placement of **Higgins' slipper near Eliza subtly hints at a reconciliatory gesture**, acknowledging their **shared experiences**.

Biographical → The film alters Shaw's original critique, softening its social messages.

New Historicism → Reflects Hollywood's tendency to romanticize transformation stories, despite growing feminist and class discussions in the 1960s.

Feminist → Eliza asserts herself but the film leaves a hint of romance, making her independence less absolute than in Pygmalion.

Marxist → The film highlights class struggle but ultimately suggests that appearance and behavior can determine social mobility.

I am sorry, NSfL