

A Quiet Place Essay

The silent film I decided to watch was A Quiet Place. I usually don't like scary movies, but this film was incredible, and it kept me interested and engaged. This film is about a family trying to survive through silence as blind, but ear-sensitive monsters have taken over the world. The monsters are attracted and attack violently to any amount of sound so they must move in silence. I'd like to talk about two scenes in the film that showed just how important it is to not only stay quiet, but how this film did a great job visually showing you how to move around making sound.

The first scene was at the beginning of the movie where the family was in a store looking for supplies. The little boy reaches for a toy on the top shelf to play with and as the toy slips out of his reach, his sister comes flying from the corner of the screen to catch the toy before hitting the ground. This already within the first few minutes of the movie had me on the edge of my seat bracing for impact. It was established that all sound was obsolete when the first few minutes of the film are very silent. So having zero background noise and no one talking, and almost having a toy come crashing down from the top shelf, is a great way to grasp your audience's attention. As I watched the scene, I gasped for air and was frozen in my seat. Watching the sister fly in and save the toy from landing on the ground really showed just how important it was not to create any sound. It created a tense moment from the minute the film started in silence to that split second of silence almost broken.

Another scene I liked was towards the end of the movie when the mother was dealing with contractions and trying to stay quiet as the monsters were in their house. This scene starts

off with the mom trying to head downstairs to the basement so that she can turn the warning lights on to alert her husband that the baby is coming. As she heads downstairs, she steps on a nail that goes deep into her foot. Once she removes the nail out her foot and turns the warning lights on, she heads towards the stairs only to see the monster is now in the house. She hobbles over to a clock to set an alarm on it. As she hobbles over to a corner to hide, the monster comes down the stairs searching the area. As she hides, she struggles to stay silent through the pain in her foot and the contractions she is having. As she struggles to stay quiet the monsters' ears open up listening to any small sounds and just in time, the alarm clock goes off, distracting the monster and has the mom run out the basement. This scene was truly intense. Starting from when the mother stepped on the nail, the composure she kept not to scream was brilliant. The ability to display a range of emotions in your face and body language and not make a single sound shows just how even in painful moments, it is better to stay silent than warn a monster where you are.

The second the monster entered the basement all background sound and over-the-film music stopped and became silent. All you can hear is the monster growling and the floor creaking. As the monster gets closer and closer, you can see the pain and struggle in her face as she is crying tears of pain and holding her mouth closed as she tries her best not to scream in pain. The one shot I really loved in this scene was when the monster opened its ears up, you could hear just how loud everything was. As the camera zoomed into the ear, you could hear how loud the little clock was ticking verse once it panned to the clock, the sound was very faint. These two scenes show just how important it is to stay quiet during the whole film. Showing that even a little whisper could cause such an eruption of chaos really makes this film so incredible and engaging to the point it makes you, the audience member, not want to speak.

This film had great acting skills, an interesting concept (that was directed beautifully), and an incredible setting. The concept of the film was to survive in a world where you could not make any sound. You can't walk too hard, you can't watch tv, play music out loud, can't even talk to each other. Such a concept needed excellent writing and an excellent cast to display an amazing performance. The story had great writing and everything was timed perfectly during the quiet and intense scenes with the monsters.

The acting in this film went a long way, especially Emily Blunt's (the mother) part towards the end. It seemed like she couldn't find a second of peace without the monsters trying to attack her while giving and after birth. Emily Blunt gave an amazing performance as she really gave the facial expressions to tell the story. While being in pain she tried her hardest to stay quiet while also giving body movements and facial expressions of clear and agonizing pain, making you wonder if she was going to make it out of certain situations. Once she had the baby, she had to protect herself and the monster from it while also trying to keep the baby quiet. The fear and concern on her face without crying aloud for help was incredible. Everyone in the film did an amazing job using their facial expressions, body movements, and sign language to communicate an intense and scary story.

I also loved where this film took place. I loved how isolated they were from civilization. They stayed on a farm in the middle of the woods and had no help. When the monsters came, it was really something to see them try and attack and survive at night whether they were in the cornfields or in the bleak house. The monsters were black so they blended in nicely at night and all you could hear was the growls. With sounds of creaks, growls, and other tiny movements in the dark, this created a very intense environment.

Some things that I would take for my film would be to have my film in an isolated area and have the threat come out at night. What made this film so intense was the enemies' camouflage and how isolated everyone was at times. I also liked how John Krasinski made sound a death penalty, I would like to explore that as well while making my film. The last thing I would take inspiration from in this film is finding diverse ways to communicate. John did an excellent job finding ways outside of sign language to communicate and I think in movies like this finding creative ways to communicate is something fun and interesting to toy around with and can really grab an audience's attention. This movie did an excellent job working around sound but also using sound to create a terrifying and threatening environment as well.