In our modern era where people are constantly trying to achieve equality in an increasingly integrated society, we’re constantly faced with issues of racism which occurred in the past. Now, more than ever, this medium delves successfully into the issues that we face today as a society, much of which is linked with issues such as discrimination against Aboriginals and prejudice towards Aboriginals. Samson and Delilah, a 2009 film by Warwick Thornton, deals with these issues. Set in the context of the Australian outback, the film follows Samson, a young Aboriginal boy who lives in a remote Indigenous community and lives a boring, repetitive life but yearns for something more. He and Delilah run away from their home by stealing a truck and escape to Alice Springs. Some ideas represented throughout the film would be the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil, the idea of being alone and the idea of racism in a predominantly white society.

One of the ideas shown through the film would be the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil. Samson and Delilah ran away from their home to save themselves from the negative emotions associated with it and to try to find a better place. Samson was angry about Delilah being mistreated by her peers, but he also believed that there was more to life than what he was experiencing every day. Delilah was being mistreated by her community since her grandmother had died, causing her to almost believe them and think that she was responsible for her grandmother’s death. The two escaped together in order to find some sort of redemption outside of their home where they knew they couldn’t find it. This idea was symbolized through the fact that the same thing would happen day by day with very little new things happening. This very repetitive lifestyle caused Samson to think that there must be something more out there in the world. Samson running away supports this idea of redemption because he ran away to seek redemption – to escape his repetitive, unhappy lifestyle and the negative emotions. This was also symbolized through the fact that it took a long time for Samson to get up out of bed and that the first thing he did when he woke up was sniff his can of petrol. This idea is further shown when Delilah is mistreated by her community for ‘causing’ the death of her grandmother. She went through grief and sadness since she started to have doubts about being able to care for her grandmother and almost believed them. She ran away to escape the negative emotions associated with her home.

Another idea shown through the film is the idea of being alone and isolated. Samson is often found alone and isolated with very little company. Samson would often walk alone because he didn’t have anyone to walk with, but also because of his culture and personality. In Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, extended periods of silence during conversations are considered the 'norm' and are valued. It’s because of this idea of silence being part of Aboriginal culture that Samson is often found alone. At one point in the movie, Samson was dancing to music outside his house alone in the dark. The dark lighting symbolises the fact that he’s alone in life, and the music symbolises that he finds joy and happiness by himself and without interaction with people. Samson would also always sniff his can of petrol, symbolising the fact that he finds satisfaction and happiness by himself since he’s not the type of person to interact with others a lot, which greatly contrasts from his brothers. The fact that his bedroom is dark also symbolises quite a bit about his personality. It says that he appreciates his time alone, since darkness is often associated with loneliness and a bedroom is often associated with feelings of comfort, therefore symbolising that Samson often finds comfort when he’s alone. This helps to give a better understanding of the association between Aboriginal culture and loneliness/isolation.

The idea of racism is shown throughout the film when Samson and Delilah travel through the modern society. The security guards followed Samson as he walked through the shops, and Delilah’s offer of artwork was constantly turned down immediately by the white Australians she offered it to. This idea is further shown through a scene where Delilah appears to be the only dark-skinned person in the scene. It clearly shows the contrast of the skin colour, and she is contrasted even further with her weak, fragile-looking body. The idea is also shown through the scene where Delilah is turned away from a white church when she looks around. Although the man didn’t directly tell her to leave, he expressed concern towards what she was doing in the church, therefore implying that he felt worried that she might cause trouble. The fact that Samson and Delilah didn’t get any care when they were clearly homeless is symbolizing racism, since no one even turned to them when they were clearly lost. The fact that the police coming to the community being captured using a long shot represents the distance between authorities and Aboriginal communities. The police also only stay momentarily, which also conveys lack of police protection in these areas, potentially also representing a lack of care by authorities and a ‘tick the box’ approach. This clearly symbolises racism since the police clearly show disfavour towards the Aboriginal communities. This helps to give a better understanding of the racist nature of white Australians and the way they tend to treat Aboriginal Australians.

Movies represent ideas and utilise film language to support the development of these ideas. In the film Samson and Delilah, the idea of redemption – the act of being saved from sin or evil, the idea of being alone and the idea of racism in a predominantly white society are shown throughout the film in a variety of film conventions such as symbolism, lighting and colour. These film conventions help to present these ideas and help to portray a better understanding of Indigenous Australians, their culture and way of life.