

## Extract from a film essay on The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Statement

Explanation

Example

Y-der  
Purpose

To further develop ideas about the nature of life, strategic lighting is used by director Fincher. The lighting in the first part of the extract reflects the mood set which is a mood commonly felt and attempted to be created by a retirement village, which reflects the nature of life as Benjamin is in the kind of state as someone who would be in a retirement village (gradually becoming incapable mentally and physically with age) and effectively is in a retirement village where Daisy is his carer. When we are introduced to 'old' Benjamin and old Daisy, the scene is lit with a high key, warm yellow light partially lit by a lamp within the mise en scene. This is important as high key lighting reveals more of the characters facial expressions (Daisy's sadness) and provides a more 'light' feeling that retirement villages aim to give to their residents. Retirement village are warm and friendly – a feeling that is portrayed by this soft lighting. The yellow colour that the room is lit up by is also purposeful, bringing the audience to feel that the scene is happy, optimistic and enlightening – once again the feelings commonly associated with that of a retirement village. The reason that Fincher has used lighting that promotes a 'retirement village like scene' is to further relate the story of Benjamin's life to the general nature of life. Once again the audience is made to feel like Benjamin, although very much different to your average old person, still needs the assistance of an old person, his brain is failing him like that of an old person and he is treated by others (Daisy) in the same way as an old person and therefor a nature of life where all living things lead very similar lives exists.