English Literature- The Critical Style Project: Spielberg's *Jaws*

Year 9, Autumn Term

Key Moments:

The opening sequence:
The audience sees the action from the shark's point of view so they know there is a fish moving through the water but they do not see it. The *Jaws* theme is played adding tension.

The first attack:
Chrissy is killed late at night when she is the only person in the water so the audience know that the shark is the killer but the characters do not yet know.

The second attack on the boy:
The beach and the sea are full of families enjoying the sun, Sheriff Brody is the only character in the scene who knows there is a rogue shark in the waters- the mayor has prevented him from informing the public about the true nature of the first attack. This second attack is in broad daylight and is very public- Alex Kintner dies and is the only son of an elderly couple.

The 4th July Attack:
The Mayor refuses to shut the beaches because the 4th of July is the biggest source of income for the island. Tension is built because there are hundreds of extra tourists and additional police officers have been recruited to patrol the sea. During this scene, Sheriff Brody's son is in the water.

The Finale:
Quint, Hooper and Brody go out to sea to capture the shark, the character's bond during the trip. Their boat is repeatedly attacked by shark and the audience are left in suspense as to what will happen to them.
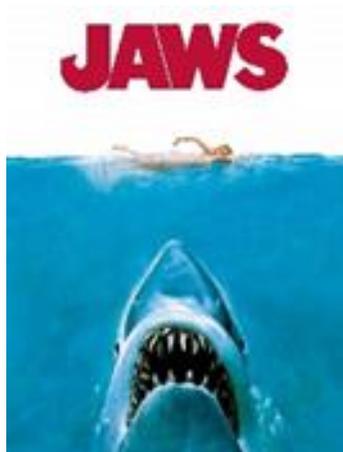
Characters

Chrissy- The young girl who dies in the first attack.
Alex Kintner- the second shark victim.
Sheriff Martin Brody- the protagonist who is new to the island; he is frightened of water.
Quint- The shark fisherman who is eventually hired to help bring down the shark.
Hooper- A wealthy marine biologist.
Mayor Larry Vaughn- wants to supress the shark attacks to keep the beaches open and the tourist industry afloat.
Michael Brody- Sheriff Brody's older son who is involved in the 4th July attack.

Structure:

Tension- Spielberg builds tension through **witholding information,** the audience are never in full possession of the facts. The use of **dramatic irony** also creates suspense as the audience know more than the characters at certain points. The soundtrack used throughout Jaws is iconic, the **music** indicates when the shark is about to attack!

Camera angles
Close up- for facial expressions
Extreme Close up- object fills the frame.
Mid shot- used for two or three people speaking.
Long shot- used to establish scenery and surroundings.
High angle- camera shooting from above looking down.
Low angle- camera shooting from below looking up.
Pan- camera moves as if on track following a person or object.
Track- camera moves as if on a track following a person or object.
Zoom- camera moves in to a close up often used to focus attaention on a relevant detail or emphasise a character's reaction.

Writing Critically- tips and tricks.

Line of argument
When planning your response, decide what the overall argument will be. This should be the running theme of your essay that you refer to and question throughout before concluding at the end.

Clear topic sentences
Ensure you start each of your paragraphs with a clear statement that communicates your idea. Ensure each paragraph starts with a sentence that builds on the previous point or your overall argument

Directors name
When writing critically you should use the surname of the person who created the text, in this case Jaws is directed by Spielberg.

Embedded quotes
When quoting a text, try to make the quote part of your sentence. Avoid phrases such as *'we can see this in the quote…'*

Key Words:

Sequencing. By using sequencing phrases such as *firstly, secondly, furthermore, finally etc* you can indicate to your reader that you are advancing your argument and coming to an overall conclusion at the end.

Evaluative phrases
Use evaluative verbs when exploring the effect of sppecific devices e.g. ridicules/ trivialises/ sentimentalises/ derides/ criticises/ demonises

Audience- as your text throughout this unit will be a film you must refer to the audience rather than the reader.

Possible meanings: move away from "shows" and "suggests" to connotes, highlights, illuminates, alludes to etc.

Example Exam Questions:

How does Spielberg create fear in *Jaws?*

How is suspense and tension built in *Jaws*?