

Examples of Imagery in Screenwriting (Visual Writing) created by Screenwriter

In *'Whiplash'* : Kinesthetic and Auditory Imagery



Whiplash | Sony Pictures Classics, 2014

I. Scene Action: *Whiplash* by Damien Chazelle (2014)

The screenplay for Damien Chazelle's *Whiplash* crackles with energy. It's full of action descriptions that build pacing, mood, and a strong sense of tension by highlighting specific moments in a scene.

Auditory
imagery

INT. ANDREW'S PRACTICE ROOM - A FEW HOURS LATER 12

Andrew practices like mad, trying to nail a double-time swing. To his left a digital METRONOME blinks. The time set: 380. Andrew stops. Resets the metronome. 390. Resumes playing. Tries to keep up. Resets the metronome to 400. Can't keep up at all now. Struggling, sweating, hands blistering, when --

CRAAACK. Andrew's right drumstick SNAPS IN HALF.

He stops. Spent. Looks at his hand, sweating and throbbing from the blisters.

Looks back at the metronome. Still beeping away. He turns it off.

Glances up ahead at a poster -- of BUDDY RICH hunched over a drum

Pink (9/10/2013)

10A

kit, mid-solo -- tacked to the wall.

Stares at the image. Then looks down -- at the PAPERWORK we saw earlier. The heading: "APPLICATION TO TRANSFER"...

Kinesthetic
imagery

Short, **kinetic*** sentences foreground specific images: the metronome, Andrew's blistering hands, the drumsticks. The scene is about "Andrew practicing like mad" until "CRAAACK", his right drumstick "SNAPS IN HALF." You can hear that **sound, right?** The capitalization helps us imagine it, as does the run-on structure of the preceding line – "struggling, sweating, hands blistering" – contrasting with that single, percussive syllable that stops us short: CRAAACK. Thanks to Chazelle's specific imagery, we're right there with Andrew. We feel his focus and obsessive energy right up to the accident, which releases tension, literally slowing us down with three sentences: "He stops. Spent. Looks at his hand, sweating and throbbing from the blisters." The structure and images work together to sweep us up in the scene action.

***Definition of kinetic. 1: of or relating to the motion of material bodies and the forces and energy associated therewith. 2: active, lively. b: dynamic, energizing a kinetic performer. 3: of or relating to kinetic art.**

In 'Toy Story': Visual Imagery

"TOY STORY"

FADE IN:

INT. ANDY'S BEDROOM

A row of moving boxes lie on the floor of the room. They are drawn up in crayon to look like a miniature Western town. The bedroom is lined with cloud wallpaper giving the impression of sky.



Woody leaps from the bed to the doorknob and struggles to open it. No good. Woody drops to the floor.

WOODY

Locked! There's gotta be another way out of here.

SFX: ROLLING SOUND

Woody is startled by the noise.

A small yo-yo rolls out from behind a box and falls on its side.

Spooked, Woody grabs a pencil from the floor and brandishes it like a weapon.

Just then a shadow passes by Woody. He turns quickly but sees nothing.

Source: <https://www.lightsfilmschool.com/blog/4-examples-of-good-visual-writing-in-a-movie-script>