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Stylistic Analysis

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## **BOYZ N THE HOOD**

The film uses aesthetic elements to deepen the meaning behind it. Cinematography is one of aesthetic elements that makes the movie what it is. The director's shots help bring the audience into the environment showing the reality of life in the neighborhood of South Central. The beginning of the movie shows the camera slowly moving through the neighborhood, showing bullet holes on stop signs and the dead body of a boy. This type of storytelling sets the tone. There were close-up shots mainly used in scenes that are intense to draw the audience into personal struggles of characters like Tre, Doughboy, and Ricky, making their experiences feel very real.

John Singleton carefully makes each scene reflect the reality conditions of South Central Los Angeles. The set design, costuming, and blocking show the difference between Tre's home, where he lives with his father, and Doughboy's home, where he stays with his Mother and his Brother, Ricky, whose mom showed favoritism more. The sound design and the music contribute to the film's emotional scenes. The sounds of the neighborhood where you can hear gunshots from a distance, dogs barking, and the chatter of families to create a real atmosphere. The soundtrack features a bunch of hip-hop and R&B songs adding another layer of reality to the movie. Ice Cube's "How to survive in South Central" not only changes the mood but also changes the movie's themes of survival and hardships.

Editing also plays a role in how the film tells its story. Singleton switches between thoughtful moments and chaotic ones to reflect life in the neighborhood. The scenes take their time to allow the audience to sink in the emotions while others happen so fast that they feel almost real. For example, the scene where Ricky gets shot builds up a lot of tension as he walks home, scratching the lottery ticket he just bought from the store, hoping for a better future beyond the streets he was living in. It shifts dramatically as the car pulls up and his killer pops out the window. When Ricky was shot, the slow motion made the scene more painful and forced the audience to feel the weight of his death. The movie didn't just show the violent side but it forces the audience to sit with it and understand the impact it has on families and the community.

The lighting was giving almost an documentary type of realism to the movie. The sunlight shows the normal everyday life of the neighborhood with the kids playing, families being together but at night, everything changes while showing the dangers that came with it. Another factor that makes Boyz N the Hood feel so real is the acting. The actors don't play just the roles but they lived them. For example, the ending scene where Doughboy talks about his brother's death and how the world doesn't care for people like them is one of the most, if not the most, emotional moments in the movie.

