

Context:

- An example of independent cinema. This is defined as:
 - Financially, it is any movie that received less than 50% of its funding from one of the big six major film studios.
 - A film which looks to create something individual in either its aesthetics or its ideological viewpoint, or both.
- Made for a budget between \$6.5-7.5 million. (Most Hollywood films are made with an average of \$65 million)
- Reflects contemporary society and its issues. (It is set at the time the film was made / released.)
- The film explores issues about women facing unplanned pregnancies.
- The film's controversial story meant that a number of major studios would not produce the film.
- The film mocks (makes fun of) people's obsession for wealth and material possessions.
- Many critics accused the film of glamorising teenage pregnancy, with others citing it as 'anti abortion'.
- The writer of the film (Diablo Cody) rejects the above criticisms. She felt that it normalised abortions and encouraged conversations about abortions, something that was a 'taboo' subject in America.
- Cody argued that it explores abortion from the perspective of adolescence, and that Juno, who seems like she has her life figured out, still has a lot of learning to do.

Key characters and their roles:

Juno MacGuff



- Presented as headstrong and sure of herself and what she wants.
- Her humour and sarcastic tone emphasises how she is a unique character.
- She carves her own path and makes her own decisions with her decision to put her baby up for adoption.
- Somewhat conforms with the character type of the rebel and outsider.
- Subverts typical representations of adolescent girls, particularly stereotypical girls in society who become pregnant.

Paulie Bleeker



- Shy and reserved and under the control of his mother. He wants to please everyone.
- Somewhat conforms with the character type of the jock.
- He is intelligent and ambitious. He shows dedication with his running, and to Juno at the end of the film.
- Subverts typical representations of teenage boys (and the jock stereotype)

Leah



- Supports Juno throughout the film and is always there when she needs her in difficult moments.
- Somewhat conforms with the character type of the popular girl. She is pretty and popular.
- Subverts typical representations of the character type.

Mark Loring



- Depicted as selfish and immature and doesn't consider the feelings of others.
- Subverts stereotypical representations of adults. He befriends Juno (his feelings for her exactly are unclear but do cross a line) and is more like the teens than other adults.

Key Settings and Shot Compositions

Juno's bedroom



- A series of close up shots of items in Juno's room. All of these demonstrate Juno's unique, quirky personality. Many items are juvenile, such as the collection of dolls. These contrast her confident, mature personality and demonstrate how she is not ready to become a mother.



- The prop of the burger phone is significant. It is seen as a close up here but there is also one seen in Paulie's bedroom. This could emphasise the bond the two share.
- Sharing such a prop emphasises their youthfulness.
- This prop links to the genre of the film. The burger phone is quite a kitsch/ retro item which fits the indie genre. It enhances the idea that these are the unique kids who follow their own path and aren't guided by mainstream tradition.

Leah's bedroom

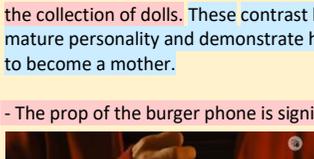


- Leah's bedroom contrasts Juno's. The colour palette is lighter and brighter and we see posters behind her on the wall which conforms much more to the stereotypical teen film.
- However, a closer mid shot allows us to see the walls, and we see figures such as Prince Charles and Bill Clinton, people that stereotypical teenage girls would not idolise (they would usually have young actors and pop stars on their walls), emphasising Leah's own quirky personality.
- This could also symbolise how society judges teenagers, particularly girls, but in fact there is much more to them than we expect.

Editing

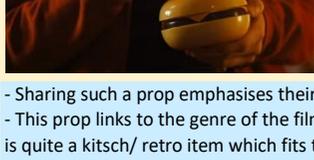
- The cross cutting between Juno and Leah's bedrooms juxtapose their contrasting personalities and emphasise Juno's quirky but also juvenile characterisation, emphasising Juno's lack of readiness to be a mother.

Paulie's bedroom



- A series of close up shots, similar to when we are introduced to Juno's room, only seeing parts of Paulie's body
- We firstly see him sitting on a racing car bed, immediately establishing his youthfulness.
- As Paulie prepares for his run, establishing him as a jock figure, we see a space themed bedroom and a science award. This subverts the jock stereotype as we can see he is also intelligent, almost nerdy.
- The close up of his slim legs also subverts the sporty, jock stereotype.

Mark's room



- Mark's room is a contrast to the rest of the house.
- His room is full of different items, similar to Juno's, linking the two character's together. This also emphasises his immature nature, demonstrating how he is more similar to the teen characters.

Key Settings and Shot Compositions

- The mid shot of Juno allows the audience to see Juno's walls, which include different types of artwork which is atypical of a teenage girl's bedroom.
- Juno's red jumper makes her stand out in comparison to the brown colours of her room. This emphasises the idea of rebellion, and how she isn't afraid to stand out.

Specialist Writing – A – Finding the Frame

- anything and everything that is included in the composition or frame of a shot is there for a specific purpose
- The framing of a shot conveys meaning through the arrangement of visual elements
- A strategy to decoding the meaning of a composition or frame is to identify the themes and ideas that lie at the heart of the film; its essence; its core ideas.

Key vocabulary:

Word	Meaning
adolescence	The period of life when a child develops into an adult
aesthetics	The overall look, style or mood of something
authority	The power to give orders, make decisions for others or tell them what to do
conform	To follow what you would usually expect.
context	Important issues that influence a story.
convention	The usual way of doing something.
genre	The category or type of something.
ideology	A set of beliefs.
motif	A symbolic image or idea that is recurring (repeated) in a text.
prejudice	An unfair opinion or belief against a person or group, which is not based in truth or real experience.
rebellion	Fighting against authority or control.
representation	Showing a person or group of people in a particular way.
social commentary	Writing about issues in society, usually in a way that promotes social reform
stereotype	A common but often unfair belief about a certain type of people.
subvert	To go against what you would usually expect.
symbol	Something that represents or stands for a bigger idea
The Outsider	A character in a story who does not fit in or belong.