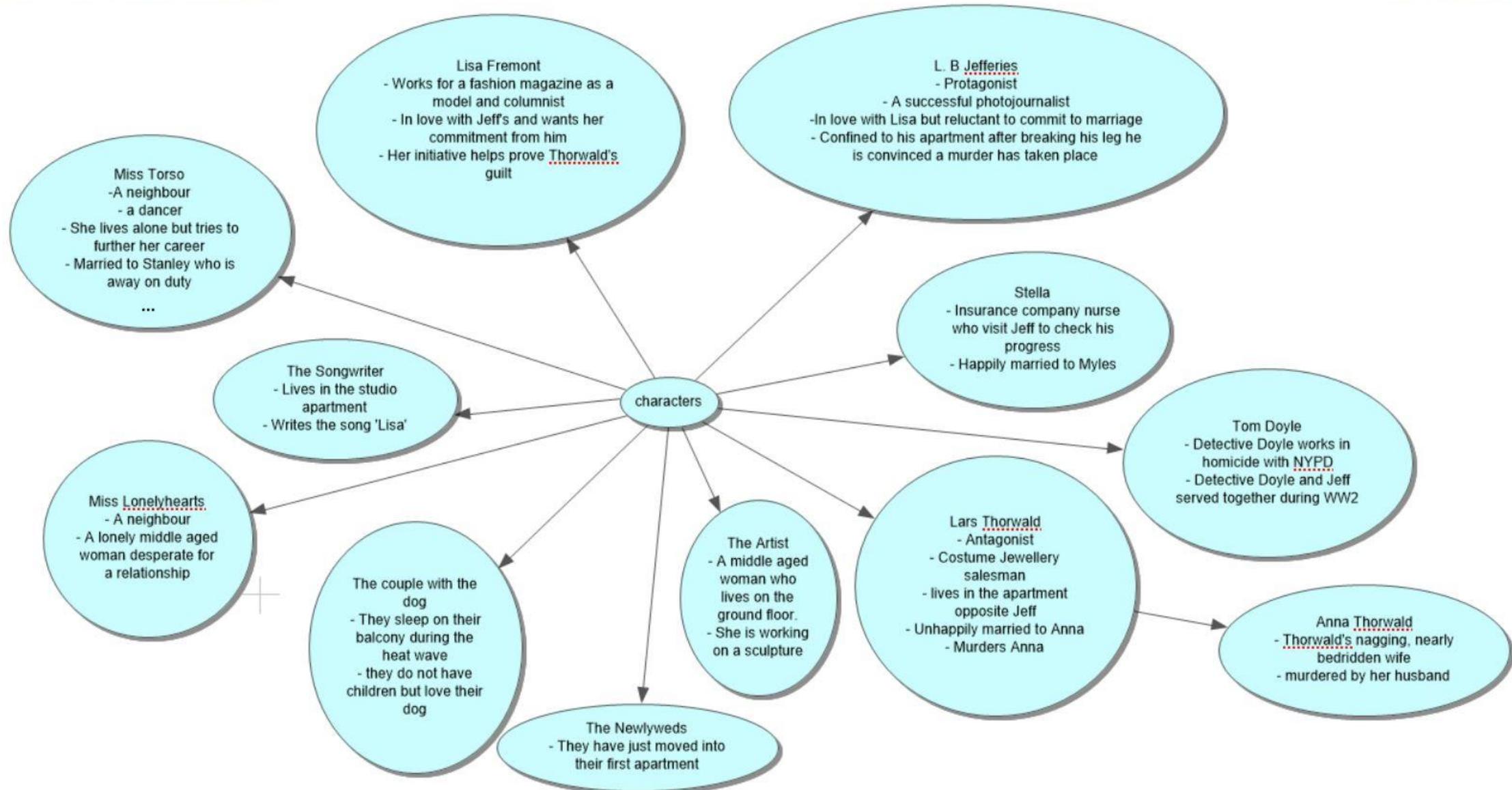


REAR WINDOW

Analysis

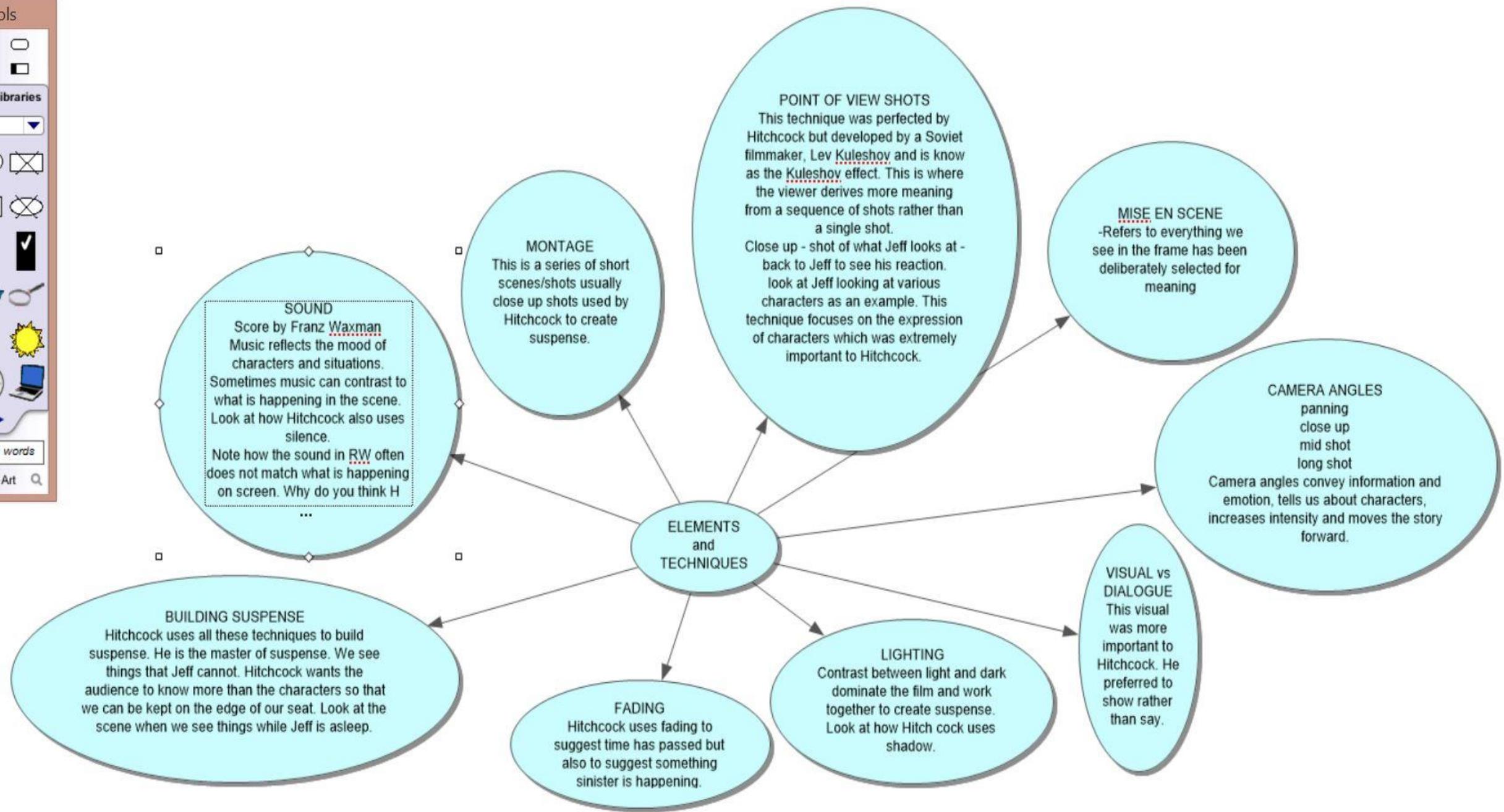


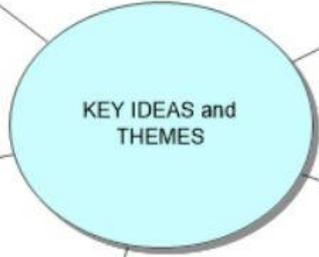
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Art





GENDER ROLES
 - reflects gender roles of 1950's
 - character stereotypes - single sexy blonde/middle-aged spinster - nagging wife
 - newlyweds - wife gets angry when she realises husband wants to give up his job - morphed into the nagging wife?
 - Women are objectified - both Jeff and Tom Doyle are guilty of ogling at Miss T.
 - Magazines represent the dichotomy between the masculine and feminine - Jeff works for a magazine that covers world news and Lisa for a fashion magazine.
 - Lisa assumes a more masculine/active role as she enters T's apartment while Jeff is passive. Lisa enjoys her role as detective but does not lose her femininity. Even when she climbs the ladder she is wearing a beautiful dress. At the end her clothes are different but she is just as interested in fashion as ever. H sends an important message to his audience that women are very capable.

MARRIAGE
 single - newlywed passion- uxoricide (murdering your wife)
 Newlyweds - conventional view of marriage/values. This romantic bubble bursts at the end.
 Single - Miss T - has male company but is delighted to have her husband back.
 Miss L - love eludes her and takes her down a dangerous path until she final finds a partner in the songwriter.
 Thorwalds - a loveless marriage - Jeff's worse fear. childless couple and family on the top floor.
 - Positive relationship - look at friendship between Miss L and the songwriter.

SOCIAL ISOLATION
 - even though they live in close proximity to each other there is a lack of connection between all the neighbours instead of a sense of community. T's murder of his wife in full view of the neighbours highlights the disinterest that exists among them. H shows that you can be just as lonely in a crowd/relationship. Jeff's idea that attractive women don't have to worry about loneliness is untrue and simplistic. Jeff is socially isolated as a result of his accident and ironically this isolation means that he becomes more engaged with his neighbours.

CONNECTEDNESS
 There is no sense of community but the neighbours are connected because of the open windows and the sound that comes from each apartment. Note that the artist and songwriter finds Miss T's music irritating while Lisa loves the songwriter's piano playing. Music also connects Miss L with the songwriter because it prevents her from committing suicide. The death of the dog and Thorwald's attempt to kill Jeff brings the apartment complex together as the audience aligns with the neighbours to watch Jeff.

VOYEURISM
 The ethics behind voyeurism is highlighted in Stella's warning to Jeff - "six months in the workhouse"
 - Both Stella, Lisa and Doyle stress that voyeurism is an invasion of privacy - "diseased"
 - The telephoto lens is highly invasive but H highlights that he can only see things partially.
 - H also establishes that voyeurism is part of the human condition - helicopter.
 Jeff's profession legitimises voyeurism and the heat and proximity of his neighbours provides the perfect opportunity. ironically Lisa constantly tries to get Jeff to watch her - negligee scene. Miss L vulnerability and attempt to commit suicide shows that those watching have a duty of care. Is voyeurism justified because even though it is "a thousand to one shot" and Jeff does cross a moral line he does bring a murderer to justice.