

Theme chart

There are several major themes in *Edward Scissorhands*. Use this chart to help you find techniques the director, Tim Burton uses to convey them in the film. Some examples have been completed to help you.

Themes	Fact/ explanation	Music/ sound	Dialogue/ voices	Symbols/motifs	Colour	Make- up/costumes	Characters	Setting	Camera shots/angle
Appearances vs Reality	Edward appears to be something he is not.								Upshots give him authority.
Love		Soft music.			White for innocence.				
Isolation/ outsider	Burton reveals to his audience that outsiders are often rejected by society.				Contrast between bright and dark.				
Self-discovery							Edward and Kim look at their reflections in the mirror.		
Conformity	The community is full of people who like to be the same.								

Themes in *Edward Scissorhands*

Conformity

Edward Scissorhands portrays a society of conformity where all the people and houses are very similar. They wear the same style of colourful clothes, live in similar kinds of houses with hedges and tidy streets and live very similar kinds of lifestyles with barbecues and sports events for entertainment. When Edward's haircuts and hedges become fashionable the whole neighbourhood follows.

Love

Love is shown between many of the characters. Kim's family are affectionate with each other and love is shown between the family members. There is also a romance between Kim and Edward which is evidenced when she lies to protect him from the community at the end when she tells them he is dead so they leave him alone.

The outsider

Tim Burton reveals how people who are different are often rejected by society. Edward is an outsider because of his hands. At the barbecue he is introduced to the neighbours and accepted as 'extraordinary'. After breaking into Jim's house he is labelled a 'freak' by Jim and 'handicapped' by their war veteran neighbour.

Appearances versus reality

In the film *Edward Scissorhands* appearances are deceiving. Though Edward looks like a monster and isn't human he demonstrates more humanity through compassion than the 'real people' of suburbia. In contrast, some of them, like Jim are cruel and calculating.

Self-discovery

Kim undergoes a process of self-discovery when she realises that she is no longer attracted to Jim due to his personality. Instead she is attracted to Edward whose looks are so deceptive. She learns to appreciate a person for who they are rather than what they are.

Edward discovers he has emotions he never knew he had when he merges with the community and becomes a part of their daily lives. He experiences feelings that were previously hidden due to his isolated life in the castle.

Your theme?