Annotated version notes – The power of one

1:48 - Comment on the effects of the following elements of mise-en-scene: music, zooming in on the map of Africa, animal noises, scrolling words, use of brown shades, giraffe picture fades out and real giraffes fade in

3:08 - Note that PK's mother doesn't look after him herself and Nanny feeds PK before her own baby. This reflects the paternalistic (look it up) relationship between black and white, even in the homeland of the Africans. The house style and pass times are European rather than African too. Europeans are trying to recreate their own culture in a foreign land. These are indications of colonisation (look it up).

3:27 - PK says he is a "Child of Africa". What do you think this means? Can you see a link to nanny feeding him? Is there a symbol here?

3:37 - What was the fade transition being used to show? Why use the zoom out?

4:12 - How is an ominous mood created in these last few scenes?

4:24 - What effect does the obscuring smoke have here? This could be foreshadowing - what do you think is being foreshadowed?

5:46 - What is the effect of this extreme long shot and the music here?

6:35 - This speech and the look the boys give PK foreshadows his treatment to come

7:01 - What does this speech tell us about the race situation in South Africa at this time?

8:59 - How have lighting and colour been used to create mood in the school scenes?

9:15 - What effect does the moving spot light, its focus on PK and its abrupt turning off have in this scene?

9:53 - What is the effect of the slow zoom in on PK's face linked to the narration?

9:54 - Note that the colours have gone back to brown shades and the light is bright again - this is how Africa is represented, giving the audience a positive view of the nature and its first nations peoples

10:19 - The setting sun represents the close of one chapter of PK's life. The courage he finds in the night is what he used in the next "day" of his life.

12:23 - What is the effect of the high angle of the elephant and the close ups of PKs face? What is the effect of the close up on the hand and trunk?

13:04 - This quote: "A man for all Africa bound to her by my spirit, bound to her by my dreams" could be seen as another instance of foreshadowing as it embodies PK's role in the struggle against Apartheid

13:53 - What is the long take of the close up on the newspaper telling us? Look at the headings

14:28 - How many swastikas have you seen so far? It is a well known symbol of Nazism but what does it stand for in this film, do you think?

17:40 - What cinematography techniques have been used to build tension in this scene (just the bit where PK is hanging upside down)? What additional techniques (not cinematography) are used to help?

18:05 - What kind of person is the headmaster? What techniques are used to help us understand that in this scene?

18:16 - What do we understand from this cross cut between Jaapie and PK?

18:52 - Comment on the effect of the slow zoom out from the close up on the grave to an extreme long shot in combination with the music and narration. Why is it sunset? Remember the last time there was a sunset and what it symbolised.

19:04 - The setting of this new chapter of PK's life is presented. What kind of place is Barberton? How can you tell? (think about the high angle on the sky and church; the crane shot panning across the town street and the colours and light)

24:37 - What is this (very long and slow) montage being used to show? Why are there so many elephants shown?

25:29

 Some useful quotes from this last section:

* "any question...the answer you will find in nature"
* "Everything in nature is cooperation, even moonlight. Without the sun the moon would be a dark circle but with cooperation, moonlight"
* "It was then I realised the Afrikaners were not the only ones to hate and fear others"

29:56 - What is the effect in these scenes of thier heads always being level (proxemics)?

30:24

* Geel Piet is introduced to us as "kaffir", he has to call a 7 year old child "little boss" and says to PK, "never call me sir".
* Doc calls him "a very smart man" and he teaches PK, " little beat big when little smart; first with the head and then with the heart"

33:03 - List as many things shown in this scene that show the impact of Apartheid and its doctrine of race as you can

34:31 - What cinematography techniques are used here to show the passing of time?

37:10

 PK helps all the tribes (who usually don't work together) and speaks all thier languages. This is why Geel Piet starts the association with him of the Rainmaker myth.

* "When there is drought it is because the people are in conflict...the Rainmaker cools things down...he brings the peace"
* "You write the letters for all the tribes, you bring the tobacco for all the tribes - naturally they think maybe you are the one from the myth"

37:40 - Why is the Rainmaker myth so important to Geel Piet and the other prisoners?

38:07 - What is the effect of this deep focus shot?

40:51 - Review this whole scene and choose 2 film techniques that you think create impact, outlining the impact they create (cross cutting, sound use, close ups, low angles, the fly, high angles, dialogue)

41:40 - What do you think the wire fence is showing? (this is Geel Peit and PK's view)

42:00 - "they look confused" "they are confused... they are afraid. They are cowards". What does Geel Piet mean? is there a link to the wire fence?

44:28 - "the myth is stronger than love, stronger than hate; it gives the reason to do what they would never do" - why does Geel Piet want to have the concert?

46:58 - How have proxemics been used in the last 2 scenes?

48:02 - What mood is created by this long shot and how is the mood created?

53:39 - What is the effect of the cut between these 2 scenes?

54:25 - Useful quote: "All tribes together, first time because of you"

54:54 - Why does Piet want to remind PK of this now, as he is dying?

56:10 - Useful quote: "Any ideology that needs to attack the thing that least threatens it is an ideology that will not outlive its own generation. Inclusion, not exclusion...is the key to survival"

1:07:55 - What is the slow pan across the tapestry and the music telling us?

1:08:35 - Useful quotes: "We are all South Africans just from separate tribes" - "Some say all our problems would be solved if we stopped thinking of South Africa in terms of seperate tribes"

1:12:55 - Useful quote: "Hope doesn't come from a myth; hope comes from here [points to heart]; we make our own future. The people must see this" - "what if he beats you?" - "then I will ... use the myth to get everyone moving"

1:14:06

 Notice Maria calls the Africans "natives". Useful quotes: "I've never been so scared" - "me neither. I thought the officers were going to do them over right here" - "I meant the natives; they scare me" - "not as much as we scare them" - "They have nothing to be afraid of from us" - "They don't? Really? Do you know many?"

1:14:55 - Comment on the effect of lighting, colours, proxemics, shot angle and distance, and sound in setting this scene

1:19:30 - Why is this flashback used? (think about the significance of the elephant symbol)

1:21:07 - This long take of Gideon holding PK's hand symbolises unity of black and white (and by extension all races) - together they are in "the myth business" to unite the tribes of South Africa.

1:21:27 - What is the significance of the shot of the rising moon here?

1:27:17 - What have these last few scenes shown us about life for the Africans?

1:29:08 - How does the waterfall answer PK's question of what he believes in?

1:29:53 - Useful quote: "a waterfall begins with 1 drop of water ... look what comes of that"

1:34:04 - What is it (with specific examples) about the dinner that changes Maria's mind about teaching English, not going to the Senior Ball?

1:41:38 - What is the transition with the painting showing?

1:42:05 - "Follow your heart. You do what you think is right" - how does this link with something PK has heard in the past?

1:46:35 - What do the proxemics in these scenes tell you?

1:51:32 - Comment on some film techniques used to create panic and confusing during the raid. (pace, lighting, shots, cuts, costumes, props, sound)

1:55:29 - Was the ending satisfying? Why or why not?