The two films I chose to analyze are *The Bad Seed* and *The Chosen*. These films are both horror movies centered around children as the main antagonist. The plots are very different, but contain similar themes. *The Bad Seed* is often revered as a timeless classic and one of the first horror movies to go outside of the norm, while *The Chosen* is much less well-known and is a somewhat typical horror film about possession and demonic activity.

*The Bad Seed* is a black and white horror film released in 1956. It stars Patty McCormick as eight-year-old Rhoda Penmark, a sweet, sassy, and smart child who has a secret devious side. This film is iconic not only because of its elements of film noir, but also because of its subject matter, which was seen as both nontraditional and bold. This film is more of a psychological thriller as opposed to jump horror. At the time, the horror genre was relatively undeveloped and the thought of a child murderer who had tricked everyone in her life into thinking she was sane was unheard of on all accounts. The notion that murderous tendencies are passed down through genes was also relatively new at the time *The Bad Seed* was made. This film was one of the first to push the envelope to include scandalous material for heightened fear. Music is used sparingly in this movie, which makes it more realistic. The music, when used, is very dramatic and typical of its time period. The scene I chose to analyze from *The Bad Seed* is the one in which Rhoda dies. She goes to the lake to retrieve the murder weapon she used to kill her classmate when she is struck by lightning and disappears, presumably into the water. For such an old movie, the special effects are pretty good. During the scene, when Rhoda is looking for the shoes, the rain and lightning looks very realistic. It begins with an establishing shot of Rhoda walking down the dock with the stormy lake visible in the background. When Rhoda starts to look for the shoes, a jump cut is used to transition to a close up on Rhoda’s face. The camera then cuts from a close-up to a medium shot and a huge strike of lightning hits the dock and it goes up in smoke. The rest of the scene is viewed in the original establishing shot. This part is less realistic; the lightning is obviously placed over the footage and there is too much added smoke, as the dock would have been wet along with everything on it. This is one of the few scenes that utilizes music. It is classic horror movie music, loud and quick, speeding up right as the lightning is about to strike.

*The Chosen* is a modern horror film released in 2015. It stars Kian Lawley as Cameron, the uncle of Angie, a little girl who has been possessed by the devil Lilith. The film is not nearly as iconic as *The Bad Seed* for a multitude of reasons including the theme, release date, and mildness. *The Chosen* does not push boundaries in the horror genre and has similar undertones to many other horror films. The special effects were not that good, which is not surprising considering this was an independent film. The scene I chose to analyze is the one in which Cameron decides to sacrifice himself for Angie. It was somewhat predictable, but not in the way which it happened. The music was dramatic and the scene was chaotic, which added to the overwhelming feeling that the characters were supposed to be feeling in the scene. The decision was very quick and made me as a viewer feel deep emotions of worry, fear, and panic alongside the characters. The first part of the scene, in which Cameron and his sister are arguing has simple medium tracking shot in which both characters are followed as they move across the room. The shots are put together with thematic cuts. Once the devil appears, the camera angle transitions to a point of view shot, which placed the viewer in the seat of both the devil and her victim. This was one of the few things the directors of this movie did well. The end of the scene when Cameron disappears is made possible with a fill, reveal frame shot in which the black smoke-like fog covers where his body would be, then clears up to show that he is gone.

***The Bad Seed* Scene:**

<http://m4ufree.info/watch-free-movie/the-bad-seed-1956-1669.html>

(2:06:00-finish)

***The Chosen* Scene:**

<https://www.netflix.com/watch/80064518?trackId=14170287&tctx=0%2C0%2Cfeab4dfd-59a1-4477-8ff7-f1e2b40ed571-53943839>

(1:21:21-1:23:30)