

## Audio-Visual Final Essay Script: Water in Moonlight

In the film *Moonlight* water, both visual and auditory, is used to represent moments of sexual clarification, repression, and realization. This is a motif that appears throughout all three acts and is a constant reminder of how Chiron's development takes place. The waves themselves can be visual, such as at the beach, or auditory, such as in Kevin's restaurant. Waves appear when he is coming to a conclusion about who he is, both relating to his masculinity as well as his sexuality.

Chiron's masculinity develops parallel to Juan's. As Juan was his main parental figure and role model during childhood, he molds his masculinity to be the same later on in life. The water motif is first established in the first act when Chiron is at the beach with Juan. Juan is teaching him how to swim, this literal form of guidance is representative of the overarching parental guidance Juan will come to represent. This guidance helps Chiron understand who he is and who he wants to be and it is at this same time that the water first appears. The emotional connection that Chiron feels here is the first time he has experienced it, with his mother being emotionally distant and abusive. The water centers Chiron and is representative of his own self-understanding, in this case, of his masculinity.

Water appears for the second time during Chiron and Kevin's meeting on the beach. This scene is imperative to Chiron's sexual development and is the first instance of sexual openness he experiences. Before this, he was unable to express himself sexually and, as stated by him in this scene, did not understand his own feelings. The sound of the waves takes over the soundscape as Chiron has his first sexual experience. This experience is a moment of sexual self-discovery and self-acceptance. By opening up himself to Kevin, he opens up himself to his own sexuality, and is able to accept who he is, albeit briefly.

Following the scene where Kevin beats up Chiron, Chiron dunks his head in a sink full of water. This scene is representative of him sinking his emotions into his inner self and drowning out his true sexuality. Chapter three begins, as well, with Chiron dunking his head into water, at this stage in his life he has repressed his sexuality, and the water continues to represent the drowning out of his own emotions. The motif persists throughout each act, fluidly, become representative of Chiron's sexual development at each stage.

The sound of the waves appears several times during Chiron's interaction with Kevin in the diner. His old feelings of sexuality are resurfacing, and he again is forced to confront his identity, now through the spectacle of his masculinity and 'hard' self. He sees his own sexuality as being contrary to his sexuality, and his conversation with Kevin in the diner in which he rejects Kevin's claim that he didn't turn out the way he expected him to make this clear. The sound of the waves calls back to the motif of water, and this time is a representation of his confrontation with his true sexuality.