We are normally introduced to the main protagonist at the start of the narrative. From this point onwards we learn more about who they are. It is important for the audience to relate to the main characters and to understand why characters act in the way they do. There are 3 aspects to character in narrative

Establishment

Development

Motivation

Through the use of a range of story and production elements characters in narratives come to life. The way in which a main character is introduced to the audience is very important.

In many narratives characters are established as stock or common characters. This is particularly the case in genre texts. Audiences recognise character types, the good guy, the loner, the femme fatale, the innocent abroad, the geek- the tough guy- the list goes on. Stock characters mean that a director can assume that the audience has some pre existing knowledge and experience of character types and can use this knowledge to cut straight to the action without having to explain each character in detail

The way in which a character is further developed in the film is the aspect that engages an audience. Characters are often created with a blend of familiar types and character traits with new features to intrigue an audience.

Character development will usually be based on motivation. Motivations may revolve around the thoughts and actions of a character or it may involve the way the character is positioned with the scene. Production elements will be used to highlight aspects of motivation; lighting for example can highlight the choice of which prop a character may pick up

In The Crow how is the audience first introduced to Eric Draven ?

Is there anything significant or interesting about the camera shot used or the way he is positioned in the camera frame? What location or setting is our character in? Does this suggest anything further about him? What is he doing? What about costume? Is any dialogue or music used?

When the audience is first introduced to Eric , it is through a series of close up shots ,of photographs revealing a handsome young rock musician who has been tragically murdered before his wedding day. In the following scene one year later the audience observe Eric leaving his grave, (resting place) after being resurrected by the power of the Crow. The audience observe that Eric is confused as he makes his way down dark alley ways back to his apartment accompanied by the Crow. Once inside Eric experiences a series of flashbacks that provide the audience with information about how he and Shelley were brutally murdered by criminal gang intent on evicting them from their apartment. In this scene the audience clearly identifies the events being told through Eric’s point of view. As Eric sits by the mirror the drama costume mark triggers his memory where he wore the mask to surprise Shelly. The flashback shows the audience the deep love they had for each other and we begin to understand Eric’s pain and motivation to seek revenge on those responsible for the murder.

How is his character developed further

This should be addressed in terms of his relationships with others-

Eric is motivated by revenge as he systematically kills each of the perpetrators responsible for the murders on Devils Night.

However what does the audience learn of the values Eric has in respect to his actions towards Darla ( Sarah’s mother) - Police Sargeant Albrecht - and Sarah