



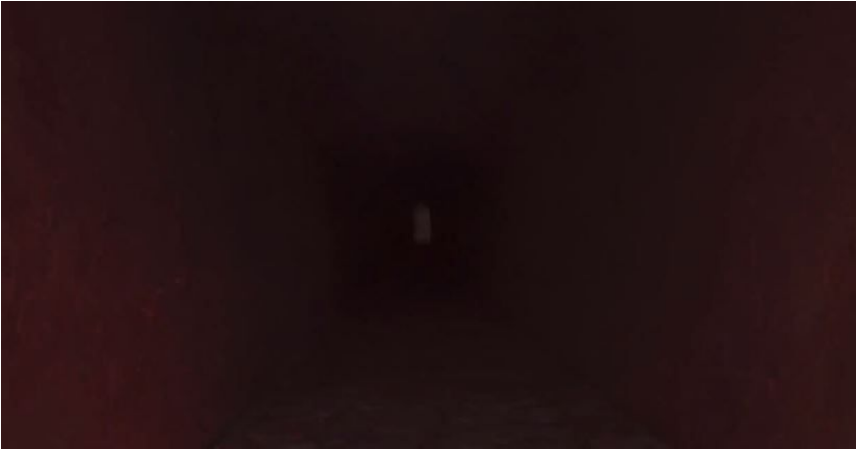
The opening scene starts with a young girl, Chihiro, and her family, on their way to their new home whilst travelling in their car. It is a fairly normal scene between a family, Oddly enough, though Chihiro is in a bad mood, the lighting does not reflect this at all. This may be because the colourfulness of this scene is supposed to represent the start of a bright new start for the family.



As the family go through a grassy track, the camera switches to Chihiro's point of view. The camera then lingers on a strange looking statue, and even remains focused on it as the car drives past it. This highlights Chihiro's interest in the statue, but it's appearance also appears to suggest that it has spiritual or fantastical attributes to it, as it looks like some sort of pixie or spirit.



The family then encounter a thin looking tunnel, and the camera cuts to a shot of the father getting out of the car to examine the opening, with Chihiro then getting out to follow her father. In this angle, the father is seen in the background, but the centre of focus still remains on Chihiro, so the audience follows her movements, rather than the movements of her parents.



As Chihiro approaches the tunnel, the audience is once again given a first person shot, and the camera zooms into the other end of the tunnel very slowly.

This then emphasizes the length of the tunnel, whilst also stressing a focus on how dark and foreboding it looks inside, especially in the perspective of a little girl.



The audience is then presented a close up shot of Chihiro's feet. Several leaves blow past in the direction of the tunnel, subtly presenting a theme of emptiness, as well as still keeping with the themes of eeriness (as seen in the previous frame) and the spiritual. Although no spirits are seen, the gust of wind hints at the presence of something that is abnormal.