CREATING A VISUAL FROM TEXT –

FROM TEXT TO GRAPHICS TO TEXT AGAIN!!

LONG WAY GONE (Ishmael Beah)

This is your chance to take an author’s words and create a visual that matches the author’s meaning and intent. It requires close reading of the text, a good choice of text to use, and IMAGINATION!!! This is serious literary analysis, but have fun with it!!

**Directions:**

1. Select a memorable or significant or striking passage from the assigned reading (Chapters 8-11) that uses imagery and is IMPORTANT to the overall meaning of the novel – character development, plot development, theme, motif. Be ready to explain WHY this is important.

**You must have read all chapters (10-11) by Tuesday, March 28 and be ready to begin your visual in class (have your passage ready). You will write your Statement of Intent (essay) on Wednesday.**

1. ***(60 points)*** **Create a VISUAL** that depicts the meaning of the passage/quote. – it needs a WOW factor.

* Your visual must use COLOR, LINE, PERSPECTIVE, SHAPES/SIZE, and whatever images you choose.
* The visual does NOT have to be literal – it may be a metaphorical or abstract interpretation of the text.
* Think about symbols, archetypes, motifs – anything that connects to the meaning of the passage/excerpt you chose.

1. \*\*\*\*CITE the relevant text from the reading somewhere **on your visual**, with author and page #. (don’t use too much text) Use the title and author in your citation.
2. ***(40 points)*** **STATEMENT OF INTENT:** On a SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, compose a PARAGRAPH that addresses each of the following: (1/2 to 1 page, typed, or blue/black pen) – FINAL DRAFT form.

Do PLANNING and NOTES here --

* + Paragraph 1: First sentence -- identify the title, author, and your choice / importance of passage. Use proper manuscript form for writing titles.
    - The text that you chose - use the quote
  + Paragraph 2: Explain significance of the text here and its importance to an element of the work (plot, style, theme…)
  + Paragraphs 3+ (as many as you need) THEN, Explain your visual representations in terms of your choice of whichever of these apply
    - Color
    - Line
    - Images
    - Perspective
    - Placement
    - Shapes/sizes
  + Conclusion: Summarize the CONNECTION of your visual and the ideas it conveys to the MEANING and SIGNIFICANCE of the text you chose.
  + By the time I finish your essay, I should see an understanding of all of the relevant chapters.

1. The **VISUAL** may be NO larger than 12 x 18 and no smaller than 8.5 x 11 --
2. The **STATEMENT OF INTENT** should be no less than ½ page and no more than 1 page .

**SUBMIT your STATEMENT OF INTENT to the CANVAS assignment.**

Visual Representation Statement of Intent B Thomas

*First They Killed My Father* (Loung Ung) January 2 2014

In her novel, *First They Killed My Father*, Loung Ung uses starvation as a motif to develop the focus of this memoir. She writes, “Hunger eats at my sanity (80). This quote is significant because it reveals the severity of starvation and how it can drive the mind into insanity. Ung experiences this while she lives on reduced food rations at a labor camp in Ro Leap. Her hunger affects the way she thinks and her ability to make wise decisions. The hunger takes over her mind, dominating her thoughts and actions. Ung expresses this feeling through the use of personification. She personifies hunger by saying it “eats.” The language is more effective because it makes the hunger seem like an evil living thing.

The hunger is depicted as a growing, thriving monster which further emphasizes the dangers and cruelty of starvation. In my visual representation, I drew a stomach to represent hunger and a brain to represent sanity. Using these body parts supports the personification of hunger by continuing the comparison to humans, representing the nouns with actual organs. The color red of the stomach represents the death resulting from starvation, while the color green of the brain represents hope because the mind is the only thing that can save them and help them survive.

Ung’s family must act intelligently to keep from being killed or from starving to death. So the brain is placed to the rights because the family should use their brains to make their decisions. The stomach is on the left because even though they need to satisfy it for survival, they should not make their decisions solely on that.

To survive, Ung must be smart. The size of the images is also significant. The stomach is drawn much larger than the brain because the quote shows how Ung’s hunger is becoming more dominant over her sanity. As her hunger worsens, her sanity spirals downward. This explains the reason behind the spirals. They symbolize the worsening of Ung’s sanity and are black to represent the danger it puts her life in. The orange colors in the background represent the ambition of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge in the war surrounding Ung’s family.

My visual uses color, images, placement, shapes, and sizes to represent the motif of starvation and the quote on page 80 of *First They Killed My Father*. Ung intends to convey the cruel and unbelievable conditions that killed over two million people and that survivors had to endure – in a way, she is celebrating the human spirit and its ability to survive this genocide.