Wonderful Student

English 12

Mrs. Miller

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Frankenstein Photo Essay Analysis

 The picture that I chose is that of a newborn baby. It has been taken only a few seconds after it has been born, perfectly capturing the essence of birth. The baby is screaming, doesn’t yet know anything and is completely lost without somebody’s guidance. It is about to, but at the moment hasn’t even opened its eyes yet. All this makes a baby very innocent and dependent on other people’s help and love.

 The quote I chose to go with the picture is “I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open” (55). This sentence describes Frankenstein’s monster coming to life, which can also be seen as it being born. Frankenstein is its creator and, therefore, its birth father. He is there when it opens its eyes for the very first time. However, Frankenstein isn’t happy like a father would be about his child’s birth, instead he is horrified and disgusted by what he has created.

 The photos go together well because they both depict the essence of birth, both the exciting side and the terrifying side. The baby represents Frankenstein’s Monster, as it is just as innocent when it is first born. They are both vulnerable because they don’t know anything they need to know yet and are, therefore, completely dependent. The future is not yet written in stone and everything could happen to them, depending on what happens to them in their early childhood and how they are being treated throughout their lives by parents and other important figures.

The quote and picture are from early in the book, however they already show how drastically the theme changes. When Frankenstein describes his own childhood earlier, it is full of good memories, happiness and generally positive. However, when he creates the Monster this changes completely. Frankenstein himself fails to act as a parent and guide to his newly born “son”, but he also fails to do one very important thing and that is give the love that he once received when he was a child. Because he chose to give up his responsibilities and not take care of his creation, the Monster goes down a darker path. Without anyone to guide it or hold it back or even just show it acceptance it takes what seemed to it like the only way, which is the path that leads to destruction.