

Consider the moment in the sequence of events that David chose to depict in his painting *The Death of Marat*. What kinds of meanings are foregrounded and highlighted because of that choice (choosing to depict this moment as opposed to some other)?

Jacques-Louis David transformed a horrendous event into one that represented the “salvation of the people” (107) with his painting of *The Death of Marat*, which became a well-known image based on its iconic death of a “friend of the people” (107). Being “closely associated with the French Revolution,” (104) David illustrated a different side of the current situation in society with his painting *The Death of Marat*. The position and highlighted image of Marat’s single, nude, and lifeless body where “his right arm [also] resembles that of Christ,” (107) demonstrates the vulnerability of the defenseless journalist, which can also be metaphorically compared to the innocence of most under privileged citizens during the revolution. Dying for a cause of expressing one’s opinion, David represented the “national hero” (107) fighting in what he believed in to his very end as Marat remains a hold of his quill in the painting. Marat’s death illustrates the integrity of the people with the painted dedication of Marat theoretically writing for the people as a journalist in his bathtub. David portrayed *The Death of Marat* as a voice of liberty that ended in defeat and yet remained strong- inspiring “a true icon of the revolution” (107).