Jake Sylvestre  
Honors English I Mods 5-6  
Mrs. Meo  
11/30/2013  
Literature and Visual Art Introduction Paragraph

Light is the best representation of life one can imagine, as a matter of fact light is used by many well respected religions in order to represent life; darkness however is needed for light to exist. If there were no darkness there would be no way to discern light from dark. Darkness often times represents death. Alone these two adjectives are nothing but together they create and infinite amount of philosophical, as well as visual comparisons one can make. This is well represented in Alice Ravenel Hunger Smith’s *The Reserve in Summer* which has a deep-seated connection with James's Hurst’s expertly crafted “The Reserve in Summer”.

The *Refuge in Summer* is a manipulation of contrasting colors. Firstly a brief overview: this painting is an acclaimed watercolor depicting a swamp with many trees,light and dark and small patches of moss. The painting consist of much contrasting light and darkness in this swamp, and it shows the artist familiarity with contrast, which she uses in many other paintings. An example of this is the light coming through the tops of the trees and getting dimmer until it hit’s the bottom. Aside from the valley of trees in this painting there is one fallen tree in the background which shadows a small tree sprouting up underneath it. There is an abundance of light aggregating to the smaller tree. Lastly the most significant aspect of this painting is the outward expanse of it; in this piece the landscape seemingly goes on forever. All of this is achieved through a skillful manipulation of contrasts of different colors and light and darkness.

There are multitudinous links between this story and the *Refuge in Summer* these links include the continuousness of these two works of art, the contrasts of good and bad, as well as the relations to life and death. The first link between these two pieces is the sense of enduring in both of these pieces. In the story, despite the fact that Doodle dies, the narrator must go on with his life unfanned, only with faint occasional thoughts of doodle. Nature is even less sympathetic to the memories of those that have passed, not even looking back in the slightest. This is evident in the picture, through the falling tree, and the tree growing in it’s place. The second link between the story and the picture is the presence of good and bad. In the story there is a constant shift between good and bad for instance the Narrator’s seemingly altruistic deeds, which he sees as being self conceited. Another example is the assumptions made about Doodle from family members throughout the story. Lastly is the presence of life and death which are both blatantly present in the story and the picture. In the story Doodle is, from birth seemingly on the brink of death, and his fate arrives at the end. In the painting there is a dead tree, and a new tree sprouting under it; additionally this painting attempts to represent nature, and nature is a constant cycle of life and death every tree in the swamp is made of billions of organisms who once walked the earth. Therefore this story, and this painting share the attributes of continuity, up’s and down’s, as well as life and death.

It is obvious that the most prevalent symbol throughout the story is light and dark, and that this symbolism has several sub-symbols, as is demonstrated above. This is the main commonality between the painting and the story.