

Ryan Tieu

Ms.Giknis

English 4

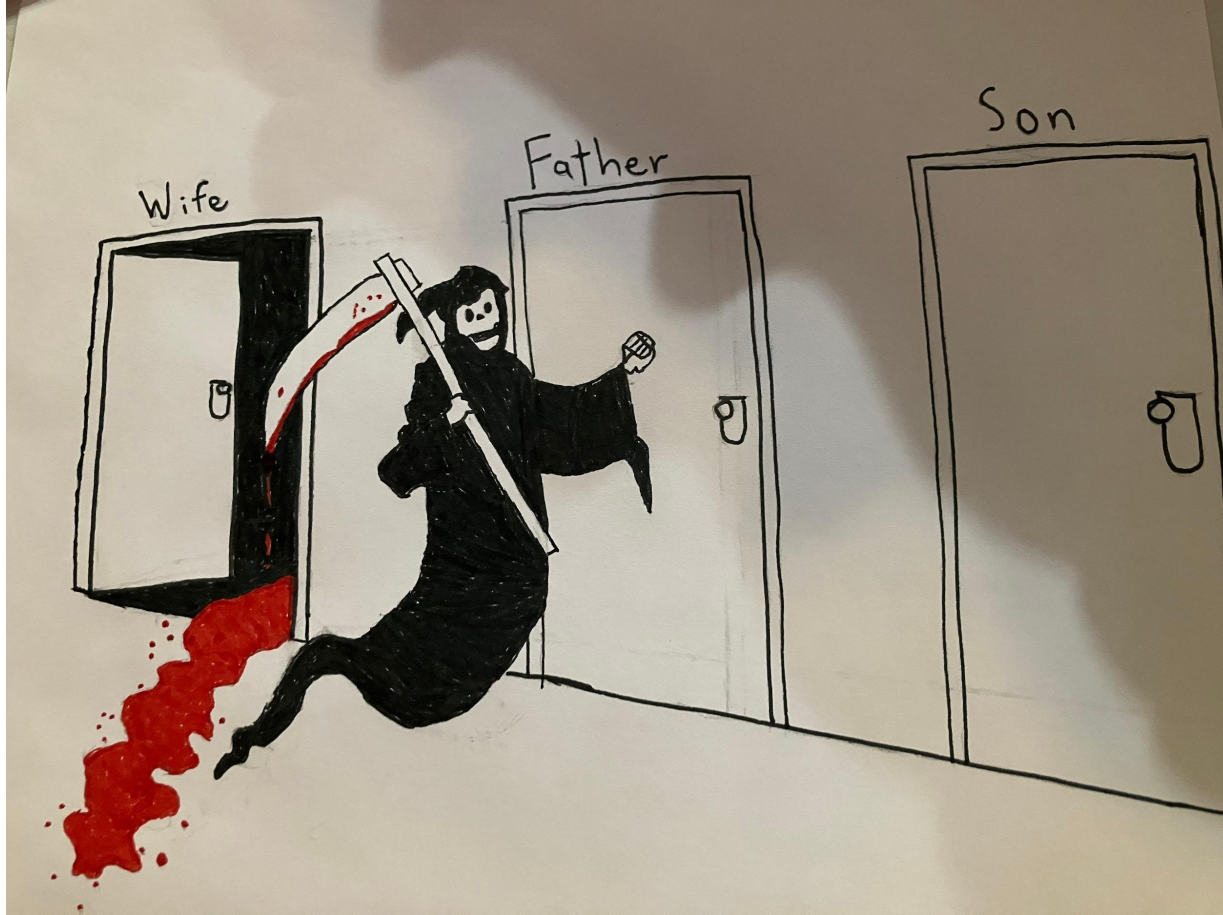
12/2/22

Death in the Family

“I don’t care. It’s meaningless. You can think of me as a faithless slut if you like. I’ve taken a new lover. He can give me what you cannot.” (pg. 56-57) Out of context this may seem like someone in a relationship being unloyal. In reality, this is about a wife wanting to die, not because of her husband, but because of the cruel world they live in. In the world of *The Road* all you see around you is death, the soil and land are unusable, the people are uncivilized savages that hunt each other. Death is everywhere in this world, even in the mind of the living.

In one of the man’s memories, he is having a conversation with his wife. Essentially she is explaining how she wants to give up and unalive herself. The man pleads for her to stay, even and mentions their son. This is where the quote in the first paragraph comes in. She says how she doesn’t care, and that all of it has no meaning. She just wants to die by her own terms, and not by the savages of the cruel world.

We see the influence of her death throughout the book. The father rejects death even in the cruel world. He much rather pushes forward and continues surviving with his son, and has made him his sole reason for survival. As he doesn’t want his wife to be right, that all of it is meaningless. We also see the influence in the son, throughout their journey we see him ask the father about death. As the story goes on, he experiences more pain, and through these pains we see him grow from a compassionate boy wanting to help people to a whiny child that wants death to take him, as it did to his mother.



For my artwork I drew a skeleton with a scythe knocking on the doors of the family members. The skeleton represents death, and the family's doors represent the family member and their life. This is to show the influence of death within their family, and how it changes their motivation and their decisions throughout the book.