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The Jesus Figure

In the short story, "The Scarlett Ibis," by James Hurst symbolizes Christianity by several examples in it. In this text, the main character, Doodle was born when his older brother is six years old. Everyone had doubt that Doodle would not live, except for Aunt Nicey. His older brother taught him how to walk, talk, and basically do everything for himself. He found Doodle as an embarrassment because he was an invalid, or disabled, brother. He began to make plans to kill his little brother by "smothering him with a pillow." (Pg. 1) He began to have faith that Doodle was "all there" by looking at him and knowing he was going to something, someday. Once he developed many skills, Brother took him for a float in a skiff. Once they came out of the water, Brother and Doodle were walking and then Brother started walking faster and then running, running away from Doodle. He lost Doodle and when he came back Doodle was dead and bloody. He looked like a Scarlet Ibis. Christianity is represented in this story by Doodle being the Jesus figure.

For example, when everyone had doubt that Doodle would not live, Aunt Nicey said that Doodle would survive because "he was born in a caul, and cauls were made from Jesus' nightgown." (Pg. 1) When I see this line, and I see the phrase "Jesus' nightgown," I think of the day Jesus was born, the day where he was born in a stable in Bethlehem. When Jesus was born in the stable, Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and set him in the manger. It also reminds me of the gown that they put on Jesus when they put him in the tomb. This is kind of foreshadowing Doodle's death.

In addition, Doodle and Brother tell lies together. Doodle would always have the beset lies. One significant lie was of a a boy named Peter who had a pet peacock. "Peter wore a golden robe that glittered so brightly that when he walked through the sunflowers they turned away from the sun to face him." (Pg. 3) This lie, is a symbolic representation of Christianity to me because Jesus had an apostle named Peter. Peter became one of the best and boldest witnesses of our faith. He was one of Jesus' first apostles and was the one to call him The Messiah first. He was the first one to preach at Pentecost after the Holy Spirit came. He proclaimed Christ to the Gentiles.

Also important, on Doodle's sixth birthday they were going to tell everyone about Doodle's spectacular surprise. Aunt Nicey said that "if [they] produced anything less tremendous than the Resurrection." (Pg. 3) Even in this statement, someone is comparing Doodle to Jesus. But in this particular circumstance, Doodle is being compared to Jesus' Resurrection, which was quite amazing. His actions is being compared to Jesus'. Of course, there is no comparison. Jesus is ALMIGHTY!!! He is like the great and powerful OZ. He can do all things.

In the short story, "The Scarlet Ibis," by James Hurst, Doodle is the Jesus figure. He is the Jesus figure because at the beginning, Brother has doubt that Doodle is going to live after brith. And people doubted Jesus when He says that he was The Messiah. Doodle gets betrayed and killed. He gets betrayed by his brother and Jesus gets betrayed by his apostle, Judas. Jesus' apostles were close, close like brothers. Brother is the Judas figure. As a result of Doodle getting betrayed and left behind, Doodle gets killed. And as a result of Jesus getting betrayed by Judas, he gets crucified. Doodle is the Jesus figure because he gets compared to Jesus physically and morally.