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English 151W

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Final Project

Second and Worst Self

For my final project I decided to recreate *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, these images can be used for an audience of college students. To make it more modern I reinterpreted it into a female version. Throughout the course and the readings, we discussed physical appearance, so I wanted to include that as well into my project. By putting all of these factors together I created a girl who is self-conscious and would do anything to be a better version of herself, but it ends up completely taking over her life. I really wanted to do some sort of art form because I never had the opportunity to do anything like this for any of my other classes, it is always the normal PowerPoint or essay. I also enjoy looking at painting or drawings because it can be interpreted in so many ways depending on who is looking at it.

I started my project by drawing some sketches, but after class when we discussed words like "flow" and "cohesive" I felt as though my project was not supporting those words, every time I drew the girl she would look different in each stage of her "journey", and this made it look like it was not the same girl. To make sure my project flowed I decided to print an image of a bottle and the girl- I used that image to enhance her features and the bottles. I knew I would have to draw the girl and bottle multiple times, so I felt like it was best for me to print out the line work of the bottle and the image of girl, and in doing so I was sure you can tell it was the same girl and bottle throughout my project.

The first image shows a girl sitting at her vanity looking into the mirror. A girl that seemingly has it together from the outside. Looking at her you would never guess that there is any kind of internal struggle or conflict. You can see three magazines, the covers say- "*Women's Mag: Find Your True Self*" and "*Change Yourself Change Your Life*" this will hint at what is to come. On the other side of the vanity showed a bottle of *Hyde*. I was trying to portray that she bought the bottle of *Hyde* because of the magazines. While this is a fictional scene, scenarios like this occur all the time with the way the media portrays young women. The next picture shows a close-up of the girl who is about to take a sip of the *Hyde* drink. This woman has clearly reached a point of desperation in wanting to become someone else.

The third picture is when you see the results of the *Hyde* drink. I used a copy of the portrait from the page before to show that she is still the same person, but she is losing herself. The details of herself that made her beautiful (eyes, lips, and hair) have been transformed. I made lines on her hair to make it look messy, darkened her eyebrows, blacked out her eyes, black dripping out of her mouth, and black veins coming up her chest and neck. By adding all of these features she looks evil, and this was all because of the *Hyde* drink. She is officially in her second form as Ms. Hyde. A very important aspect of this picture is the quote in the background. I wanted to include a quote from the book that showed the struggle of how the poison changed Dr. Jekyll's life. The quote is, "I was slowly losing hold of my original and better self, and becoming slowly incorporated with my second and worse". I wrote this quote over and over again, but the only difference is how the handwriting changed. The purpose was to look like a diary entry, it starts off neat like it was Dr. Jekyll, but as it gets towards the end it becomes sloppier and sloppier, as well as frantic as if she is becoming Mr. Hyde, or Ms. Hyde I

should say. I also purposely underlined the words, "I", "was", "losing", "self", "becoming", "second". I thought this could be its own sentence- I was losing self becoming second. This portrays that she is losing her true self who once she was disgusted by and did want to be and became someone who she thought she wanted, but in reality it is her disgusting self. This reminded me of how Hollywood says women need to look a certain way or you are not good enough, and many women will do anything to try and be that person. Women will look at magazines and other media forms to become the person they see in pictures, whether it be diet pills, makeup, etc. As you can see in the picture it ends up ruining her life. By drinking the *Hyde* poison, she ends up losing her true self and becoming the complete opposite of who she really wanted to be.

Finally, in the last picture you see the silhouette in white which signifies that she is still there, but she is empty and has lost herself. The *Hyde* entity shadows her from behind showing that she is consumed. The darkness is coming from every direction and she is trapped. You can see the broken bottle on the floor with the black liquid coming out and spilling everywhere, showing that there is a connection between the evil in the bottle and the evil she has become.

This has to be one of my favorite projects that I have done in my whole college career. While this project was challenging, once I found a complete idea that I was excited about and found ways to make it cohesive I really did have fun with it. Everyone struggles with insecurities especially because Hollywood portrays how one "should" look and act. The images showed a dramatized version of the struggle girls can feel, they will be desperate enough to become what they think will be a better version of themselves. The problem with that is it can completely takeover your life and you become someone you never wanted to be. This is all very similar to

how the Mr. Hyde personality completely took over Dr. Jekyll. He never thought he would lose control of his second self, but it took over him.