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Dr. Peiser
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Thesis Proposal

In this paper, I will explore the relationship between the character of Laura and the fire imagery found throughout "Goblin Market" by Christina Rossetti. This imagery is a physical representation of Laura's life force and the effects of the events that transpire throughout the poem are expressed through Laura's fire, rather than to Laura herself. I will be pointing to various stages of life that Laura goes through in the poem, including life, death, and resurrection. This cycle aids Laura's characterization and gives her a narrative arc.

I will be discussing how Laura's association with fire imagery shifts both before and after her encounter with the goblins, noting how she is described before the attack and what that specific imagery stands for and how it relates to my thesis. I will go through the poem and note moments where and when fire is mentioned in relation to Laura and its significance, discussing the changes I find and analyzing them. I will closely examine the imagery at length and compare it to a stage of life at each point to illustrate my point, linking it to the previous stage.

To refine my thesis, I will use Michael Ferber's article on fire in *A Dictionary of Literary Symbols.* I will mostly be looking at Ferber's description of fire providing life and death and taking my essay in that direction, mostly focusing on the life aspect. How the fire imagery also relates to Lizzie and how it differs from Laura's during her assault will be discussed. I will explain the significance of fire imagery and their meaning in each of Rossetti's repeated similes in the poem and how they relate to Laura and her character arc.

I will discuss how fire is a common symbol of life, and how the effects on Laura's fire after her encounter with the goblins are like a death, pointing to evidence in the text to make my point. I will discuss the metaphorical death of Laura's fire after her encounter with the goblins. While Laura does not die a physical death, her fire is described as burning low and becoming almost nonexistent and she becomes listless. Even the language used to describe what the fruit does to Laura after she eats the fruit from the goblins is told as happening to her fire and not Laura herself. I will make this distinction in my essay, discussing how the fire is linked to Laura's metaphorical death and how that imagery illustrates it.

Towards the end of my paper, I will note the moment where Lizzie comes back victorious over the goblins and brings the fruit to Laura. This moment is similar to a resurrection, as Laura's fire is described as almost nonexistent and Lizzie's fire is what restores Laura's. I will compare Lizzie's fire to Laura's and discuss the differences I find in the language between the two.

I investigated Kathleen Anderson and Hannah Thullberry's essay "Ecofeminism in Christina Rossetti's 'Goblin Market'"" but I could not find any relevant information to my paper. There was some discussion relating to redemption that was tangentially related to what I was looking for, but there was no explicit mention of the fire imagery. I will go to the library to meet with Emily Spunaugle and see if I can find a better-fitting article for my thesis.

I also plan to review Byung-Eun Cho's "The Creation of a Female Myth: A Study into Christina Rossetti's 'Goblin Market.'" In this article, I found a discussion about fire being likened to desire and the soul, among other interpretations of Lizzie's fire towards the end of the

poem, including how the fire fits into Lizzie's role as Laura's savior. I will tie this research into my essay, determining which interpretation fits it best.

I will investigate Albert D, Pionke's article "The Spiritual Economy of 'Goblin Market'" and Jill Rappoport's "The Price of Redemption in 'Goblin Market'" to see if I can find any pertinent information relating to Laura's redemption and resurrection.

1. I will use Monday the 11th to outline my paper.
2. I will use Wednesday the 13th to work on my citations, topic sentences and revision.
3. I will go to the library after class on Friday the 15th to see if I can find new sources if needed.
4. I will work on my conclusion in class Monday the 18th, seeking Dr. Peiser's help if necessary.
5. I will use Wednesday the 20th as a general work day to both write and read articles I may want to use in my paper.
6. I will also work on my paper on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
7. I will meet with Dr. Peiser as I see fit, checking in with her to see if my paper is progressing well.

Laura and the fire imagery in "Goblin Market" are closely intertwined. The fire imagery is a stand-in for Laura herself, as her reactions to the events of the poem are explored through this imagery and serve to illustrate Laura's metaphorical death and resurrection. Lizzie's relation to the fire imagery is more subtle, but her fire is what resurrects her sister after her metaphorical death.

Annotated Bibliography

Anderson, Kathleen, and Hannah Thullberry. "Ecofeminism in Christina Rossetti's 'Goblin Market.'" Victorians: A Journal of Language and Culture, 2014. 63-87.

This article discusses the nature imagery in "Goblin Market" through the lens of an ecofeminist approach, relating the imagery to religious themes and comparing the fruit the goblins present to Lizzie and Laura to more natural elements found in the poem. Anderson and Thullberry also contrast the goblin men's actions to Lizzie and Laura's, arguing that the female characters understand nature better than the goblins. I did not find anything useful to my argument in this essay.

Cho, Byung-Eun. "The Creation of a Female Myth: A Study on Christina Rossetti's 'Goblin Market'" in Nineteenth-Century Literature in English. Korean Society of Nineteenth Century Literature in English, 2004. 197-225.

This article compares "Goblin Market" to a myth, pointing at different aspects of the poem and applying them to mythical comparisons. Cho asserts that the poem is like a rite-of-passage story and she uses Joseph Campbell's monomyth to follow the plot of "Goblin Market" and discusses how different parts of the poem correspond to this structure. Cho also compares Lizzie and Laura to Adam and Eve and uses this comparison to explore the religious undertones of the poem. I found

Cho's discussion of the fire imagery at the end of the poem useful, and I will look at the interpretations and see if there is one that fits my argument.

Ferber, Michael. "Fire." A Dictionary of Literary Symbols, Cambridge University Press, 2nd edition, 2007. Credo Reference, http://huaryu.kl.oakland.edu/login?url=https://search.credoreference.com/content/entry/litsymb/fire/0?institutionId=218. Accessed 03 Nov. 2019.

This entry discusses the different ways fire can be used in literature, including passion, punishment, or warmth. Ferber uses examples from the Bible and Greek mythology to illustrate his point and compares the two. Ferber also discusses the contrast between the modern depiction of Hell and how it appears in Dante's Inferno, as well as what fire means in the modern sense. I found his mention of fire representing both life and death interesting, and I will use that information to bolster my argument.

Pionke, Albert D. "The Spiritual Economy of 'Goblin Market.'" SEL Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900, vol. 52, no. 4, 2012, pp. 897–915. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mzh&AN=2013580331&site=ehost-live&scope=site.

Rappoport, Jill. "The Price of Redemption in 'Goblin Market.'" SEL Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900, vol. 50, no. 4, 2010, pp. 853–875. EBSCOhost, search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mzh&AN=2011580249&site=ehost-live&scope=site.