

October 15, 2012
Period 5

In Joseph Conrad's novella, "Heart of Darkness," Conrad creates a contrast between light & darkness through the characters Kurtz and Marlow. The use of biblical references assists in the forming of the characters as well. Conrad includes a reversal of meaning behind light and dark. The underlying facts and allusions create depth to the characters ~~that~~ which increases the understanding of the true heart of darkness.

remove the
intro to
improve
control

delete
perhaps

Kurtz is constantly being described as a god-like figure; a natural leader. He is juxtaposed to Lucifer, also known as Satan. Isaiah 14:12 refers to Satan as, the "son of the morning" who has "fallen

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good
fiction

from heaven." Kurtz arrived in a pure country, unaware of the bombarding monsters. He gained control of a tribe, just enough people to help him grow in power. Kurtz's reign came to an end as his mind and then body was taken over by his deranged beliefs. Through his insane actions, skewering heads and placing them directly outside his home, Kurtz was still worshipped and honored by the tribe.

In 2 Corinthians 11:14 it gives ~~warning~~ an admonition of the "angel of light".

¶ The natives did not know what was in store for them: when Kurtz walked in, he appeared to be a

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fair and lovable man; yet he drowned their souls in misery and blood, whether they were aware of it, or not. The deception of Kurtz is similar to Satan's, in that the people were mostly unaware of their sins and misdeeds because they believed they weren't wrong at all.

nice parallel

On the dark side, Marlow's adventure is one of truth. It isn't until Marlow has been swallowed up by darkness, that he ^{is} faced with the truth. As Marlow travels, he tries to pin darkness to a certain person or place but he learns that it isn't one simple item of a physical

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nature, it is a belief; an understanding.

Without the despair and exposure, Marlow would have never learned the truth of humanity. As Marlow grew accustomed "to look upon the shackled form of a conquered monster", he was blinded from the truth. Yet, when he truly sees the "monster," he realizes it isn't a monster at all.

Marlow came upon truth after witnessing innocent people ~~be~~ dying helplessly under trees, skewered heads as decorations, and cannibals fighting to survive. After all this, what sealed the deal was seeing ^{but} the mighty Kurtz fall from his

