



*Tim Burton  
Multigenre  
Project*

*Trinity Victoria*

## Letter to the reader

Dear reader,

When my English teacher assigned me this multigene project, I was so confused. For a good week or so, I had no idea what person I was going to choose to write about, so I sat and thought. I wanted to do somebody who had an impact specifically on me. Not necessarily someone who has had a gigantic impact on the science world or someone who held a sports record, but someone who has affected me, personally. So finally, after a good couple of hours of thinking, I decided to do one of my childhood favorite screenwriters, Tim Burton. People everywhere know him for his Goth, eerie masterpieces that he creates. His movies were a whole part of my childhood. Even though I admired him so much, I barely knew anything about him, so that's why I decided to choose him.

Throughout this project, we together, will ride Tim Burton's roller coaster of life and discover where he got his inspirations from. We will encounter success, failure, and artwork. So hold onto your seats, because I promise you, it will be an eventful ride.

Sincerely,

*Trinity Victoria*

# *Perfect Happiness*

Trinity Victoria

Bullies, parents, peers  
Total *darkness* in the mind of Tim Burton

A Pencil, pen, paper  
An escape from reality  
His childhood reflected in his work  
*A flicker in the dark*

A sketch, a drawing, a dream  
Ideas appear on the curtain of imagination  
He traces the outline of his life  
*A gleam in the shadows*

A nose, an eye, a smile  
Their faces form  
His delicate hands mold his future  
*A candle in the night*

Props, a script, a scene  
Success slowly forms  
He choreographs their movements  
*A lightbulb on a string*

Editing, revising, finishing  
Gentle motions produced by a mere mouse  
He paints every scene  
*A fire in the hearth*

A film, a movie, a masterpiece  
Fragile figures dance along the screen  
He eyes each second  
*A twinkle in the darkness*

Popcorn, an audience, a theater  
People watch in aw  
He examines his work  
*A star in the abyss*

A carpet, a nomination, an Emmy  
Lights flashing everywhere  
He smiles and waves  
*Something out of nothing*

Champagne, dinner, a toast  
People celebrate all night  
He looks around and smiles  
*Perfect Happiness*

Monster  
Worthless  
pig  
Idiot  
garbage  
Nerd  
retard  
Crazy  
Loser  
Chubby  
Wreck  
messed up  
Emo  
awkward  
Freak  
butt-head  
dumb  
stupid  
lame-o  
Fruit  
Air-Head  
Waste  
of  
life  
disgusting  
useless  
Moron  
Freak  
Ugly  
Unloved  
Loser

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## *Frankenweenie*: A Reflection of Tim Burton's Childhood



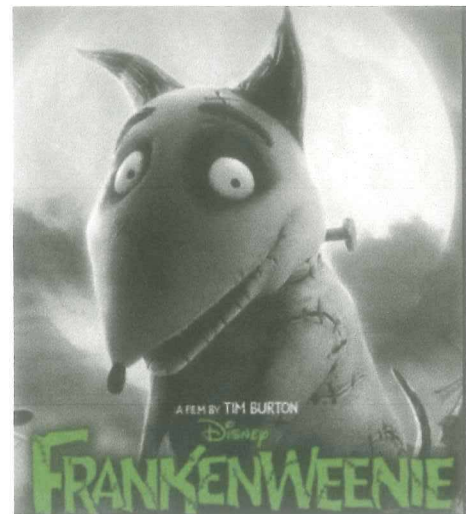
*"Movies are like an expensive form of therapy for me."  
-Tim Burton*

Growing up in the suburbs of California, Tim Burton was quite an introvert. He was never close to his parents and other kids often found him odd. In fact, he often related himself to Frankenstein. He says, "He's [Frankenstein] perceived as a monster, even though he isn't really. He's just different." As time went along, Burton discovered a creative outlet that could serve as an escape to an alternate reality-drawing. He used the outlet as his rock, getting him through all the rough patches in life. Time took a turn for the better and Burton got a scholarship to CalArts. He later dropped out of college and went to go work for Disney, deciding that

his aspirations were greater than a diploma. While at Disney, Burton came up an idea of a short stop animation film called *Frankenweenie*. Unfortunately, after Burton made this film, Disney fired him making the argument that it would cost too much money to produce a movie too scary for children to see. Fast forward to today, and Tim Burton has once again lit the candle of his creativity and has decided rework his college animation: *Frankenweenie* into a full length film.

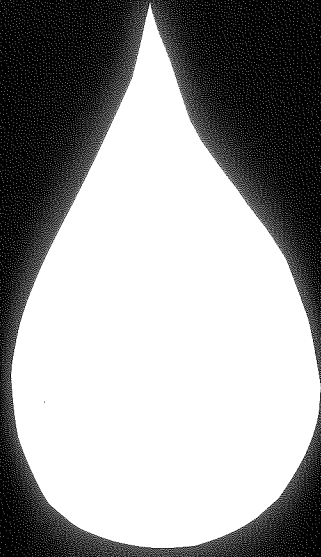
As film enthusiasts, artists, and mere children everywhere watch Burton's latest movie, *Frankenweenie*, they can obviously see Burton's incredible artistry. His quite dark and eerie signature throughout the movie cannot go over-looked to anyone watching. What some people don't know is the way this movie in particular is a strange, sort of autobiographical tale about his childhood. From characters to the plot and everything in between, Burton has managed to hide his childhood scars in this double-meaning movies. Burton has said that, "Mr. and Mrs. Frankenstein of the film are optimistic version of my parents, although in some ways I had a slightly more troubled relationship with my parents [than in the film]. And *Frankenweenie* was based on my old childhood, Pepe. If I could have brought him back to life, I would [have]. I did it in film instead."

This movie is in black and white. It represents the darkness of Burton's childhood, and how he was lonely and quite sad. If you reflect this movie to Burton's life, this represents the time period where his relationships were unsteady. There were many unfortunate things happening in his life, the time where he hasn't found his light in the darkness... drawing, animating, and creating beautiful pieces of art pieces of art that represents childhood, his memories. Burton suffered through many hardships throughout his childhood, but this just made him stronger. His suffering has gave him magnificent content for his movies that we have been graced with to enjoy. He has found his light in the darkness, but has he found happiness in himself? Only his movies can tell us his answer. And I believe that his answer is a yes.



morose

crude



useless

dumb

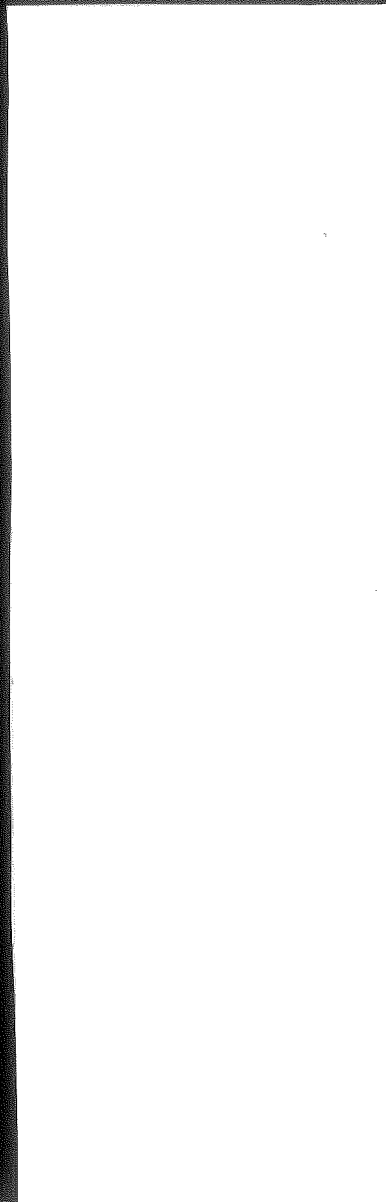
pig

worthless

nerd

unloved

freak



## *Something out of Nothing*

Trinity Victoria

*Setting: There are ten grey school desks with connected chairs lined up in two rows of five in the middle of the stage. They are semi-turned to the right, but still facing the audience. There is also a medium sized teacher's desk on the left of the stage facing inward towards the desk. Behind the teacher's desk, there is a leather office chair that has wheels and can move around. On the teacher's desk, there is a glass jar filled with miscellaneous writing utensils. There is also a fresh green apple, a name plate with the name Mrs. Johnson on it, an old PowerBook 100 computer, and a big desk planner (Organize teacher's desk to your liking).*

*Characters: Mrs. Johnson, Sally, Timothy Burton (his 10-year-old younger self), Josh, and seven other extra students with minimal lines.*

*Off set, a school bell rings and ten kids rush on set from the left all mumbling and talking to each other in excitement, except for one boy (Timothy Burton) who looks quite out of place. The students are loitering near the door, not really sure what to do. After a minute or so, Mrs. Johnson walks in through the left stage.*

*Mrs. Johnson claps her hands twice to get the students attention: Okay class can I have your attention please, I'm your 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for this year. Please take a seat anywhere you'd like.*

*All the students rush toward a seat, yelling at their friends to hurry up so they can sit next to them. Timothy sits in the seat in the second row, farthest away from the teacher. Sally sits in the first row, right in front of the teacher, and Josh sits smack in the middle in the first row. All the other kids settle into a seat after a minute.*

*Mrs. Johnson: Now that everyone has aquatinted themselves, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Mrs. Johnson. This is my second year teaching here at Bear Valley Middle School, and my favorite hobby is drawing. Now, I'd like everyone to turn to a neighbor and introduce themselves with your name and your favorite hobby.*



*All the kids immediately turn to their closest neighbor and starts talking, incoherent to the audience. The teacher walks around the set, she sees that Timothy isn't talking so she starts walking towards him. When she reaches him, she crouches down to meet him at eye level.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Now, what's your name my dear?

*Timothy:* T-T-Timothy... Timothy Burton ma'am.

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well Timothy, why aren't you following my instructions?

*Timothy:* Well, er... Everyone has kind of gone to talk to their friends, and I don't really have any friends so...

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well why don't you talk to me instead, okay?

*Timothy:* What. Uh. Umm. Okay. Well, umm, my name is, um, Timothy ma'am. But you already knew that. And my favorite hobby is, well, I have multiples, but some of them are painting, and I guess drawing too.

*Mrs. Johnson:* WOW! What a coincidence! I too love drawing.

*Timothy:* Yeah, I know.

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well, if you ever need to talk, my door is always open.

*Timothy:* Okay thanks ma'am.

*Mrs. Johnson walks to her desk and again, claps her hands twice to get the class' attention.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Now, for our very first assignment of the year, I'd like you guys to do a project. You will draw three pictures. The first picture being how you see yourself now. The second being how you see yourself in the future. And the third picture will be your journey in between now and the future. This will be due two weeks from now.

*The entire class:* Awwwwwww!

*Josh:* But Mrs. Johnsssoooooonnnn! This is literally the first day of school!!!!

*The entire class is nodding their heads, agreeing with Josh's statement.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well if you have a problem with my teaching methods, then it will be due in one week.

*The entire class:* NO! IT'S OKAY! WE LOVE YOU MRS. JOHNSON!!!

*Mrs. Johnson quietly smiles to herself:* Well then, get on with it.

*Students pull out a piece of paper out of their backpacks, and get to work. The light dims. The curtain falls. The first act is over.*

-----*Intermission*-----  
-----

*The curtain rises and the same classroom set is empty. A school bell rings and students rush in from the left stage and sit in the seats that they were sitting in the last act. After all the students are situated in their seats, Mrs. Johnson walks in from the left stage and sits at her desk. This scene takes place two weeks after the first act.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Now, how was your weekend class?

*Multiple "goods" and "alrights" are heard around the class.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well, as you all know, today is the due date of your first big assignment. So, one by one, you'll come up and present your projects to the class. I'll be grading your audibility and the project itself. First, we'll have...

*Mrs. Johnson places hand in chin, looking around the classroom. Looking as if she's thinking.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Sally.

*The girl named Sally stands out of her seat and takes her project out of her backpack. She walks in next to the teacher's desk where the audience can still see her and her project. The project looks like three, standard printer sized sheets of paper taped together. On the first sheet is a drawing of a girl, the middle is pictures of money, and the third is a supermodel on a runway.*

*Sally: Here (points to the first sheet), is me as I am now. This one (points to the last sheet), is me in the future. I see myself as the most popular model ever. And I'll get there by (points to middle sheet), getting lots and lots of money from somewhere and buying my way to fame. That's it.*

*Mrs. Johnson: Uhhh...that was beautiful Sally thank you for that. (Sally nods her head and sits in her seat) Next will be...*

*Mrs. Johnson looks around the room once more then points to Timothy.*

*Mrs. Johnson: Aha. How about you Timmy, do you have your project? (Timothy nods his head)*

*Timothy slowly pulls out his project out of his backpack. He stands and walks toward the front of the room, right to the exact same spot that Sally was at. Timothy's project is quite crumpled. He has the same three connected sheets of paper. The first sheet is completely black, the second has a candle, and the third is a paper full of doodles. As Timothy gets himself settled in the front of the class, multiple incoherent mumbles and giggles can be heard.*

*Mrs. Johnson: Now, now, quiet down class. Timothy, we have your undivided attention.*

*Timothy nods his head*

*Timothy: Err...this (points to the first sheet of paper) is how I feel right now.*

*Sally: But there's nothing even on that paper!*

*Mrs. Johnson: Shhh! Quiet Sally.*

*Sally rolls her eyes*

*Timothy:* This (*points to the sheet with all the doodles*) is how I want my future to be, and this one (*points to the middle sheet*) is my journey there.

*The room is silent with the exception of a few snickers and giggles.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Um... I think myself and some of your classmates are quite confused about your project. Do you care to elaborate?

*Timothy:* Err... sure, I guess. This first picture is all black because my life is dull and not very interesting. The last picture is what I want my future to be. Full of art and doing what I love most, creating. And the middle picture represents my journey in between. Out of the darkness comes a flicker of creativity, then a candle of imagination, and not soon after, an atomic of originality. I want to create beautiful artwork and show the entire world. Artwork that represents my childhood. Something out of nothing.

*The entire class stands up and claps.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Oh wow Timothy that was beautiful. A+ , A+ indeed!

*School bell rings. Students start packing their bags and rush out of class.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* The rest of you will present tomorrow. Timothy can I hold you for a couple of minutes?

*Timothy nods and walks toward the teacher's desk.*

*Mrs. Johnson:* Timothy, I'd just like to say that I truly loved your presentation. It was so passionate and thoughtful. At first, I couldn't even believe my eyes when I saw the quiet boy in the corner expressing his feelings with a voice so powerful it could move mountains.

*Timothy:* Err... well it was only cause I really like art, I guess.

*Mrs. Johnson:* Hahaha, I can see that. Well, anyway, I just wanted to tell you that it was amazing.

*Timothy:* Yea I guess, I think it was quite boring if I'm honest. Sally has real aspirations and a set in stone plan to get there. I'm just going with the flow.

*Mrs. Johnson:* Well, the quietest people turn out to be the most powerful. Something out of nothing, as you say.

*Timothy:* Eh, I guess. After all, there are a lot of quiet people, so there must be a lot of powerful people.

*Mrs. Johnson:* Indeed you're correct. You must go now since my next class will be coming quite soon, but I just would like to let you know. I see greatness in your future. You are after all, the quietest kid I know.

*Timothy nods his head and leaves through the left stage. The light dims and the curtain falls.*



Tim Burton:

*"Anybody with artistic ambitions is always trying to  
reconnect with the way they saw things as a child"*

-Tim Burton

On August 25, 1958 in Burbank, California, Tim Burton was born. His mother, Jean Burton was an owner of a cat-themed gift shop and his father, Bill Burton, was a former minor league baseball player. Burton was never close to his parents growing up so he found an outlet to deal with his isolation by turning his greatest downfall into his greatest achievement. Little did he know that the stop-motion animations that he made when he was younger, would spiral into an everlasting abyss of success and creativity. He found his inspiration in authors and actors alike. He has created his own genre of film that blends the dark side of science-fiction and fantasy together beautifully. Previous film producers/directors modeled their films after the cookie cutter template that society provided for them. Burton, on the other hand, relayed his childhood fantasies into realities. Tim Burton has single-handedly changed the way artists interpret film.

*Darkness.* Tim Burton grew up as "a child who was considered by those around him, and himself, a misfit who spent his days feeding on a steady diet of horror and science-fiction." (*Senses of Cinema* By: Ben Andac) Drawing, painting, and watching films were the only thing that Burton was good at during school. *A flicker in the dark.* As a preteen, Burton enjoyed watching actors like Vincent Price who was the main protagonist in many horror movies. He also enjoyed authors such as Dr. Seuss, Roald Dahl, and Edgar Allen Poe. Burton

was especially interested in the work of stop-motion animation pioneer Ray Harryhausen  
“Before long, young Burton was making horror films with a Super8 camera, but he felt more like an artist than a filmmaker.” (*Senses of Cinema* By: Ben Adac) *A candle in the night*. At the age of thirteen, Burton made his first (known) stop-motion animation movie called *The Island of Doctor Agor*. *The Island of Doctor Agor* consisted of very dark and ominous themes that can be seen in Burton’s movies today. Before long, Burton graduated from the California Institute of the Arts and started working for Disney, starting his professional career as an artist. *A fire in the hearth*. Throughout Burton’s thriving career as a film creator, he never once swayed from his ideas and he kept his same fundamentals in all his movies.

*The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *James and the Giant Peach* come to show how Burton doesn’t create a movie, he creates a work of art. *A twinkle in the darkness*. In these movies and also in many more, Burton hangs the tightrope of innovation in between the ominous and fantasy of film. The same tightrope that can be traced all the way to his childhood. Burton can thread his childhood with his films so immaculately. “In Tim Burton’s films, there are a lot of autobiographical elements for instance, Tim Burton loves stripes and often he uses them in his movies.” (*The Influences and the Gothic Style of Tim Burton* By: animationbegins) Burton’s childhood has laid the foundation of the source of all his creativity. “Some of the childhood drawings would serve as the inspiration for some of his most memorable characters...” (*13 Things You Didn’t know About Tim Burton* By: Danny Gallagher) Tim’s intense atmosphere that he creates in his movies is a reflection of the intense emotions he felt as a child. His films are a reflection of his childhood. *A star in the abyss*. Burton’s unique producing and directing technique has changed the way filmmakers



look at their craft. Even after Tim dies, his effect on the film world will never diminish. The name "Tim Burton" will remind everyone of the man who changed the film world forever. *Something out of nothing.*

#### Citations:

- "Tim Burton on His Life and Movies Coming Full Circle with 'Frankenweenie' (Video)." *The Hollywood Reporter*. Web. 22 Jan. 2016.
- "Tim Burton." *Senses of Cinema*. 2003. Web. 22 Jan. 2016.
- "The Influences and the Gothic Style of Tim Burton." *Animationbegins*. 2012. Web. 22 Jan. 2016.
- "13 Things You Didn't Know About Tim Burton." *TheFW*. Web. 23 Jan. 2016.
- "Tim Burton Biography." - *Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline*. Web. 23 Jan. 2016.

## Unifying Element

My unifying element throughout my entire multigenre project was the theme of something out of nothing. I put the poem first because at the end of each stanza are some main themes that can be seen throughout the project including: *A flicker in the dark*, or *A fire in the hearth*. These common threads are tied back to Tim Burton because it represents how he found his passion in his darkest time, his childhood. Although the black sheet is kind of weird, it represents his darkest time, and how he had nothing. Throughout the project, as you continue to learn more about Burton and his life, the black piece of paper starts to have more meaning. You first see an outline of a candle which represents the beginnings of his creative work, and on the last sheet of black paper, you see a collage with multiple pictures of Burton's past films. This collage represents how movies saved him, *His light in the dark*. This theme is how I chose the candle design, because in the darkness, a candle can lighten up any room. The same with Burton, his artwork brightens up his world. I chose the essay to be one of the main last components so that the reader can understand how all the elements throughout the project is tied into Tim Burton's life.