Personification of Death

1. **Which "Death" is closest to what you would have expected (assuming you have some sort of expectation of Death in your mind)? Which is farthest? How so? How did seeing a version of Death very different from what you might have expected affect you?**
   a. I imagine Death much like Sample A, from Harry Potter. It shows Death as a scary, vulture-like being, with crows and a dead tree in a graveyard. I'm very afraid of Death and not willing to let go of the world yet (but this may change as I age), and I imagine it as a spooky being.
   b. I imagine Death least like Sample F, "The Appointment in Samarra." It portrays Death as a sort of normal person, scary but reserved, acting just like a human being. He had an appointment with the merchant's servant just like any businessman might have, and it shows that you cannot escape your fate. It makes Death seem more humane, like a normal person who schedules "appointments" with people.

2. **Is there much overlap? In other words, do you see many consistencies or similarities between texts? Where? And why might that be?**
   a. Yes. There are a few main themes:
      i. Scary, skeletal figure:
         1. In the first and second images, Death is portrayed as an evil, scary vulture of evil and a hooded skeletal figure. This is the main stereotype of Death that I have— that it is a scary place and figure that is unknown and evil.
      ii. Loving character:
         1. In the third image, Death is shown as a caring person for fallen souls, similar to God watching over living humans. He has many faces (souls of the fallen) in his cloak, and he has a kind face looking down at all of them.
      iii. Sly, humanoid person:
         1. In the three texts, Death is heavily personified as a normal person that makes regular encounters with humans (as they die). The appointments seems like normal, routine encounters that are not scary or exciting, but like business deals.
   b. This is because some, but not all, people think of Death the same way, similar to other unknown, shadowy, and mysterious concepts.

3. **It's incredibly easy to find personifications of Death if you're looking for them. But why might that be? What are the implications of personifying Death? Why is this appealing (as an artist or as an audience)? What are the benefits? The consequences?**
   a. I think finding a personification of Death is easy because everybody faces death, and it is an inevitable concept. To attempt to recreate Death is a difficult task, being such a mysterious and unknown idea, so people try to turn it into something that we *can* understand: a person. Therefore, it is probably to allow people to express their concept of Death into something that others can also understand.
   b. This is appealing because there can be so many different ways to interpret Death, and adding humanoid personalities and properties can be very interesting, especially with different perspectives.
   c. As mentioned earlier, this makes Death easier to understand and relate to. However, it may not be able to capture entirely an idea so complex as Death, just like it would be difficult to explain in one text or image how life is.