“The First Seven Years” Optic ANALYSIS

*Paying attention to the details is a habit that is a necessary part of effective analysis. As you analyze visual texts, including paintings, photographs, advertisements, maps, charts or graphs, the* ***OPTIC*** *strategy can help you construct meaning.* ***OPTIC*** *stands for* ***Overview, Parts, Title/Text, Interrelationship, and Conclusion****.*

*As you examine a visual text, respond to each element:*

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| Title – *Inside Looking Out* (1953) by Ben Shahan (pg. 123) | |
| **O -** Write a brief ***OVERVIEW*** of the painting: In **one complete sentence**, what is this image about?  Please describe what you see using one of the sentence starters below:  *This image portrays…*  *This photograph emphasizes…*  *The photographer arranges….*  *The photograph shows…*  *When looking at this image, I see…* |  |
| **P -** Key in on all of the **PARTS** by noting any details that seem important.  *What is the focal point or what stands out the most? Why?*  *Explain how or why the color, lighting, textures, patterns, shapes, size seem important.*  *Is there any contrast of the same elements listed above? Identify them and explain the contrast.*  *How are objects and/or people arranged in the painting? Why is this effective?* |  |
| **T -** Use the ***TITLE***to clarify the subject of the image. Consider both literal and metaphoric meanings.  *What does the title suggest?*  *Is there any* ***text*** *in the image - a caption, or words in the image itself? What might this text suggest?* |  |
| **I -** Specify the ***INTERRELATIONSHIPS*** in the image. In other words, how the parts are related, both to one another and the image as a whole. Consider how the parts come together to create a mood or convey an idea or argument.  *The image creates a feeling of…*  *This image conveys the idea that…through the use*  *of…*  *The artist seems to suggest…* |  |
| **C -** Write a **CONCLUSION** paragraph about the image as a whole: Think about what the artist might be trying to capture and convey, and what ideas, arguments, or implications this image presents. Given what you see and what you know about the image, what do you think it means? What message do you think the creator is trying to express? What other messages, if any, does this image express? What do you think might have been the intended purpose of this image? The intended audience?  Do you think this image effectively achieves its purpose? Why or why not?  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