

Jack Ryan  
English 2XL  
Section 4  
PV Picture CM #5

### The Blue Marble

The blue marble photo is a beautiful high quality photograph of the entire Earth. It was taken by astronauts with nothing between them and the beautiful, shining, big blue marble. It depicts most of Africa, some of Antarctica, and quite a few beautiful clouds. It portrays the entire earth as a round sphere and not just parts of it. It is the most distributed photograph in human history, and it is obvious why. It is the most wholistic picture of earth that has really ever been taken. Another thing that struck me was how the picture was originally taken upside-down, with Antarctica on top, but it was flipped because that is how society usually interprets earth. This photo shows how arbitrary direction is, and how it was created to provide order to a disorderly system.

This photo is poetic because it shows how precious earth is. The reason it is so widely used by activists is because it shows in detail the planet we love. All of earth's environments can be seen from the desert to the rain forests to the glaciers. It really makes a person think about the planet they live on and what they can do to help out. A side message that actually affected me greatly was the theme of how direction is arbitrary and really has no meaning in the grand scheme of things. Direction is a system of navigation set up by humans to try to put order into a universe where disorder is preferred. The law of entropy states that systems tend to move from order to disorder, and the universe is more at peace with disorder rather than organization. Sometimes, not having direction gives more freedom and allows one to be free of distraction as they explore their own definitions of poetic.