“Shrimp and Oyster Worker,” 1911

Creating a large collection, Lewis Hine focused on the tragedy of child labor. Hine’s photograph, “Shrimp and Oyster Worker,” depicts a young boy in filthy clothes and without shoes, hard at work. The oysters nearly fill the whole frame, making the boy seem isolated and forgotten. Most likely, there were people around, but Hine chose to frame the photo in a way that would suggest loneliness to the viewer. In addition to this, the boy’s hands are both occupied with large pots that seem to weigh him down. Hine probably predicted that the boy’s stained apron would also provoke an emotional response, because due to the effects of black and white photography, the stain looks like blood. The photo is thought provoking, leaving the viewer pondering the injustice of child labor.1

1. Lewis Hine, *Shrimp and Oyster Worker, Biloxi, Miss*. Photograph. Accessed Sept 11, 2012. <http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/guide/pp7476.jpg>.