The chapter used as reference for my final project is Chapter 3, "Life Imitates Life". The chapter deals with Bates' observation of amazonian butterflies and his eventual discovery of bio-mimicry.

With my final project, I wanted to represent bio-mimicry through illustration. I chose to do this through a series of three paintings, with each painting describing a different facet of bio-mimicry.

The first painting depicts a red bird, the predator, sitting on the branch of a tree and gazing at a cloud of blue butterflies. More specifically, the predator is looking straight at the only red butterfly of the group. The blue butterflies represent the unpalatable butterflies that the predator has learned to ignore. The red butterfly represents the palatable butterfly that will soon be eaten.

That this predator is intelligent and has learned to recognize harmful butterflies from edible butterflies by sight is the first part of bio-mimicry.

The second painting is almost identical to the first. The cloud of blue butterflies is still there and the red butterfly has seemingly disappeared. If you look closely, however, you will notice that one of the butterflies (in almost the same spot as the red one) has a slightly different shape from the rest. The predator, uninterested in the cloud of inedible butterflies, has it's sights set on a lizard, instead.

This second painting represents how, over time, the palatable butterflies will evolve to look almost identical to unpalatable butterflies, thus escaping the predator's interest.

The last painting shows a completely different part of the forest. A cloud of green butterflies flutter over the head of the predator who, once again, has its sights set on the one butterfly different from the pact – the only blue butterfly. The green butterflies represent unpalatable butterflies, though of a different species than the blue unpalatables. The blue butterfly represents the mimicking butterfly, though in this case it is mimicking the wrong butterflies.

This is the third part of bio-mimicry: mimicry only works if the mimics are with those that they are mimicking.