"In essence, the Renaissance was simply the green end of one of civilization's hardest winters" - John Fowles.

Fowles uses a metaphor to describe not only the Renaissance, but also the Black Death. He then draws a connection between the two. Fowles gives this idea that after all bad things, there is a spring time. However, the true depth behind this is the crisp metaphor with cold icy winter to the Black Plague. The quote gives the sense that the Plague is this icy, almost unstoppable force, like winter. He also brings in the Seasons into the world. After the Renaissance came Summer. Our lives would fall into the Autumn of this cycle. How close is the winter? This quote gives people a feeling that it will be Winter, but Spring always follows Winter. So is this quote a for-shadow of the United States? No, it just states a cycle, a natural cycle as unchangeable as the Seasons themselves. Going on, this quote relates to what we have been learning because it compares our life to the seasons, and a cycle of how human lives are.