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Between the World and Me

James Edmund 2018

Illinois Wesleyan University

Antoinette Jackson 2020

Illinois Wesleyan University

Anna Kney 2018

Illinois Wesleyan University

Jasmine White 2020

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Between the World and Me

Ta-Nehisi Coates



James Edmond

Antoinette Jackson

Anne Kney

Jasmine White

Ta-Nehisi Coates


- Born September 30th, 1975 in Baltimore, Maryland.
- As a child, Coates immediately showed an interest in books and writing.
- Attended Howard University
- Worked in journalism for *The Atlantic City Weekly* and *Philadelphia Weekly* before working as the senior editor for *The Atlantic*
- Authored several books: *We Were Eight Years in Power*, *The Beautiful Struggle*, and *Between the World and Me*

About the book

- Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote a letter to his 15 year old son about how to live in the black body in America. He shows his son these abilities by sharing experiences and harsh realities of growing up African-American.
- Ta-Nehisi Coates key points:
 - Racism in society
 - Impact of the education system

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“It was a mix of shame for having gone back to the law of the streets mixed with rage - ‘I could have you arrested!’ Which is to say: ‘I could take your body’ (p.94-95)

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- Your body will never be your body
 - Victims of police brutality


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“America makes no claim to the banal. America believes itself exceptional, the greatest and noblest nation to ever exist, a lone champion standing between the white city of democracy and terrorists, despots, barbarians, and other enemies of civilization” (p. 8)

- American exceptionalism - the idea that our history is different and better than others
- Condemns other countries for the way they treat their people
- Will not acknowledge the mistreatment of our own citizens




“The fearless boys and girls who would knuckle up, call on cousins and crews, and, if it came to it, pull guns seemed to have mastered the streets. But their knowledge peaked at seventeen, when they ventured out of their parents’ homes discovered that America had guns and cousins, too.”(p.27)

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- A vertical line on the left side of the slide, featuring a small teal circle near the top and a larger grey circle below it.
- The greatest lessons, are the ones you don't remember learning
 - “America has guns and cousins, too”
 - Not represented in higher education

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“When our elders presented school to us, they did not present it as a place of higher learning but as a means of escape from death and penal warehousing” (p.26)

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- A vertical line on the left side of the slide, featuring a small teal circle near the top and a larger grey circle further down.
- School is presented as a means for a better life, an escape from the violence of the streets
 - Lack of funding to poorer performing public schools impact minority students more, creating an even larger gap in resources available
 - The School to Prison Pipeline: an American Epidemic

Sources

- Coates, T. (2015). *Between the world and me* (First edition.). New York: Spiegel & Grau.
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- What Is the School-to-Prison Pipeline? (2016, July 08). Retrieved August 03, 2017, from http://www.genfkd.org/what-is-school-prison-pipeline?gclid=CjwKCAjwzYDMBRA1EiwAwCv6JIXFJ1IfBpJopW0ghy1RYwmx7dOM-fCsSG-sG4LEn89KBHVgacrnfh0CDjoQAvD_Bw