

Cortlan Wickliff

Young and Driven Overdrive-

Norman Doidge

The Brain That Changes Itself-

<https://www.brainmaster.com/software/pubs/brain/contrib/The%20Brain%20That%20Changes%20Itself.pdf>

Neurons that fire together wire together. The use and disuse of neuronal pathways that permit brain reorganization via neuroplasticity.

“The discovery of the critical period became one of the most famous in biology in the second half of the twentieth century. Scientists soon showed that other brain systems required environmental stimuli to develop. It also seemed that each neural system had a different critical period, or window of time, during which it was especially plastic and sensitive to the environment, and during which it had rapid, formative growth. Language development, for instance, has a critical period that begins in infancy and ends between eight years and puberty. After this critical period closes, a person's ability to learn a second language without an accent is limited. Second languages learned after the critical period are not processed in the same part of the brain as is the native tongue.”

“Learning in the critical period is effortless because during that period the nucleus basalis is always on. But now he was asking, could the critical period of effortless learning be extended?”

“Schwartz wondered whether patients could shift the caudate "manually" by paying constant, effortful attention and actively focusing on something besides the worry, such as a new, pleasurable activity.” p.121

Chapter 4: What Neuroplasticity Teaches Us About Sexual Attraction and Love-

Learning and Unlearning

“In grief, we learn to live without the one we love, but the reason this lesson is so hard is that we first must unlearn the idea that the person exists and can still be relied on.”

“Critical periods lay the groundwork for our types, but falling in love in adolescence or later provides an opportunity for a second round of massive plastic change.”

Pleasure Centers

“When the pleasure centers are turned on, everything we experience gives us pleasure. A drug like cocaine acts on us by lowering the threshold at which our pleasure centers will fire, making it easier for them to turn on. It is not just cocaine that can lower the threshold at which our pleasure centers fire... falling in love lowers the threshold at which the pleasure centers will fire.”

“The enamored person falls in love not only with the beloved but with the world and romanticizes his view of it.”

Henry Louis Gates

Black in Latin America-

Brazil-

Haiti-

My Takeaways:

Many countries refused to recognize Haiti as a country or as an independent Black Nation. Struggling to be recognized, they were forced to pay over 1 billion dollars in reparations to France and other European countries for the Haitian Slave revolt to maintain trade relations with these countries. With this in mind, will reparations for African Americans in the United States ever be paid? Under the framework of extortion that France employed, African Americans would need leverage over the United States government in order to demand reparations in the way that they wanted.

Once the former slave Toussaint L'Ouverture assumed control over the once independent black nation that we now call Haiti, he employed forced labor tactics in order to maintain sugar production and prop up the economy, however, he met serious backlash and was regarded as extreme for his actions. After being set up and arrested by France, his successor, Henry Christophe destroyed anything resembling plantation lifestyle and slavery. After doing so, the economy fell into a pitfall so travestied that Haiti has never recovered and can now be identified as one of the poorest countries in the world. Was Toussaint L'Ouverture really the bad guy for employing forced labor or was he striving to prop up and maintain the booming economy? Is this the framework for American capitalism?

Kiese Laymon

Heavy-

“I wanted to write a lie. I wanted that lie to be titillating. I wrote that lie. It was titillating. You would have loved it. I discovered nothing. You would have loved it. I started over and wrote what we hoped I'd forget.”

“I wanted to write a lie.
You wanted to read a lie.
I wrote this to you instead...”

Very few folk in this nation has any desire to reckon with where we've been, which means very few folk in this nation want to be free.

“You gave me a southern black laboratory to work with words. In that space I learned how to assemble memory and imagination when I most wanted to die.”

Swim in the deep end... metaphor fused with intoxication and substance abuse? Alleviating the weight, you carry?

“I got on my knees and prayed to God not to hear you wailing under the weight of a revolutionary black man from Mississippi...I downed a few mason jars of box wine until I forgot the shape of the sound I was running from...The wailing did not stop. I hated my body.... Early the next morning, I had my first wet dream. I was afraid to tell you what my body did while you were with Malachi Hunter because I knew you'd ask me why.”

His parent to child relationship is unbelievably sexually charged. I can afford the single mother to only son dynamic close-knit relations but I'm not sure I can engage the titillation of this text. I am certain, it is not just a Kiese Laymon thing.

The weaponization of shame in the context of white supremacy.

I will tell you that white folk and white power often helped make me feel gross, criminal, angry, and scared as a child, but they could never make me feel intellectually incapable because I was your child

I will show her how much softer my thighs have gotten over the years since I stopped trying to disappear

Heavy – Analytical Essay

Our Kind of Ridiculous - Analytical Essay

How to Kill Yourself Slowly in America 2013 Edition: Authors Note –

“I was slowly coming to understand that the novel I wanted to be read would never be published.”

“I wanted my work to be a site of the catastrophic and the pleasurable, the public and the private, and the awkwardly destructive and the wholly sublime.”

“[M]y most meaningful discoveries about the act of being human have come through the solitary act of listening to turning pages, rereading clumsy passages, and marking up the shifty sides of texts.”

“I’m not sure I’ve done anything I hoped to do, but I’m thankful you’ve given the voices and sentences in my blood, a chance to work with you. This is how to slowly kill yourself and others in America.”

Prologue – We will Never Ever Know: Letters to Uncle Jimmy –

“What makes me despicable is that one of the responsibilities of American writers is to broaden the confines, sensibilities, and generative capacity of American literature by broadening the audience to whom we write, and hoping that broadened audience writes back with brutal imagination, magic, and brilliance.
Echo.”

Worst of White Folk-

“I understood that when Mama said, ‘white folks,’ she meant the worst of white folks. I knew this literally because there were so many different types of white folks on television, and the only white folks I knew personally at the time... were complicated, caring white folks who didn’t want me dead. The truth was that you didn’t have to know white folks personally to understand what the worst of white folks nudged you and your family to feel and do.”

How They Do In Oxford-

“I’m wondering what it means for me to claim ownership over Black culture in Mississippi after having been away for the same amount of time I’ve lived there. The moral authority to critique Mississippi generally, and Oxford specifically, definitely belongs to someone. I’m not at all sure that someone is me.”

Echo: Mychal, Darnell, Kiese, Kai, and Marlon-

“[Even] though I knew, the first time that I tried to end my life, that I needed help more than the helping profession needed me.... Dreams, when I could actually sleep, were a welcome escape from life.”

“We are experts in the art of killing because we know what it’s like to be killed, maligned, have our spirits deadened, and our bodies pillaged. We know. But we cannot demonstrate our knowledge by rearticulating the very violences that have been used to murder us.”

*I need your help,
Kiese Laymon*

“You’re right Kiese, love can’t be attained through ownership- love is a relationship that must be cultivated through honesty. The truth can hurt, but a lie will never set you free.... Please love me enough to tell me the truth.”

“But what of the scars that you can’t see? You ever go so deep and remember the things you didn’t know you were reminding yourself to forget?”

You are the Second Person-

Real black writers.

In case you dig the vision.

“You know far too well why a first or third person could self-righteously claim innocence in matters of love and loss”

Double entendrum? First person point of view, third person point of view?

“I can create an audience for this novel with these essays I’ve been writing.”

The confidence, the ambition, the faith in his work when nobody else believed in him.

“Wanda’s book, and all the other covers, really did look like greasy children’s menus at Applebee’s. Your eyes watered as you googled the published authors Brandon had signed two years after he signed you.

You wanted your name on an Applebee’s menu too.” XXX

““You’re the second person I’ve diagnosed with this today.... You seem like you’re holding something in. Fear is okay, you know. Do you have any questions?”

I don’t know what’s wrong with me. I just want my grandma to think I am a real writer.”

“I can’t put my name on a book that you want written and its apparent that you won’t put your companies name on the book I want read.”

“You wondered why you started the piece with ‘Alone you...’ You are the I to no one in the world, not even yourself.”

“I’ve written my way out of death and destruction before. I’m trying to do it again.”

“You look up.

You close your eyes.

You breathe.

You look down and you keep on writing, revising, and imagining, because that’s what real black writers do.”

James Baldwin

The Fire Next Time: Letter to my nephew -

“It is not permissible that the authors of devastation should also be innocent. For it is the innocence which constitutes the crime.”

“One thing I cannot forgive my countrymen of is that they are killing tens of thousands and they do not know it and they do not want to know it.”

Anybody who depends on the goodwill of white people is himself delusional.

Stranger in the Village -

“The strain of denying the overwhelmingly undeniable forces Americans into rationalizations so fantastic, that they approached the pathological.”

“People who shut their eyes to reality simply invite their own destruction, and anyone who insists on remaining in a state of innocence long after that innocence is dead turns himself into a monster.”

Ralph Ellison

Harlem is Nowhere-

“Not that the negro is worse off in the north than in the south, but that in the north he surrenders and does not replace certain important supporters to his personality... He surrenders the protection of his peasant cynicism- his refusal to hope for the fulfillment of hopeless hopes and his sense of being ‘at home in the world’ gained from confronting and accepting (for day-to-day living, at least) the obscene absurdity of his predicament.”

Harlem is Nowhere- Analytical Essay

Richard Wright's Blues-

“His response was likewise violent, and it has been his need to give that violence significance which has shaped his writings.”

“For the Negro there is relative safety as long as the impulse towards individuality is suppressed. (Lynchings have occurred because Negroes painted their homes.) And it is the task of the Negro family to adjust the child to the Southern milieu.”

What America Would Be Like Without Blacks-

“For today it is the black American who puts pressure upon the nation to live up to its ideals. It is he who gives creative tension to our struggle for justice and for the elimination of those factors, social and psychological,

which make for slums and shaky suburban communities. It is he who insists that we purify the American language by demanding that there be a closer correlation between the meaning of words and reality, between ideal and conduct, our assertions and our actions. Without the black American, something irrepressibly hopeful and creative would go out of the American spirit, and the nation might well succumb to the moral slobbism that has always threatened its existence from within.”

The Haverford Statement-

“The only way to be an effective negro is by being the most perceptive and responsible American Intellectual.”

“Far too frequently black youth have been forced to depend upon the intellectuals of other groups for interpretations of their relationship to the larger society. In fact, other groups of intellectuals have given more time to the task than we have ourselves.”

“But instead of plunging in and testing themselves against the unknown, they choose rather to argue with the deficiencies of the past and to direct accusations against their parents. They accuse us of lacking manhood and courage, and they have declared themselves a new breed, which perhaps they are.”

The Art of Fiction: An Interview-

“If the Negro, or any other writer, is going to do what’s expected of him, he’s lost the battle before he takes the field.”

“Interviewer: Would you say that the search for identity is primarily an American theme?”

“Ellison: It is the American theme. The nature of our society is such that we are prevented from knowing who we are.”

That Same Pain That Same Pleasure: An Interview –

“It was important for me to know a boy who could approach the intricacies of electronics with such daring and whose mind was intellectually aggressive. Knowing him led me to expect much more of myself and of the world.

“Although it was not a part of my own life, I never thought they were not for me simply because I happened to be a negro.”

“There’s a world in which you wear your Sunday clothes every Sunday, and there’s a world in which you wear your Sunday clothes every day.”

Definitely believed in the upward social mobility of negroes and a societal meritocracy. “If you worked for it...you could finally achieve it.”

ELLISON: I can remember very vividly. Richard Wright had just come to New York and was editing a little magazine. I had read a poem of his which I liked, and when we were introduced by a mutual friend, he suggested that I try to review a novel for his magazine. My review was accepted and published and so I was hooked.

ELLISON: Dissatisfied? I was too amazed with watching the process of creation. I didn't understand quite what was going on, but by this time I had talked with Wright a lot and he was very conscious of technique. He talked about it not in terms of mystification but as writing know-how. "You must read so-and-so," he'd say. "You have to go about learning to write consciously. People have talked about such and such a problem and have written about it.”

“Our negro situation is changing rapidly, but so much which we’ve gleaned through the harsh discipline of negro American life is simply too precious to be lost.... Times change, but these possessions must endure forever. Not simply because they define us as a group, but because they represent man’s triumph over chaos.”

“As for my writer's necessity of cashing in on the pain undergone by my people, and remember, I write of the humor as well, writing is my way of confronting, often for the hundredth time, that same pain and that same pleasure. It is my way of seeing that it be not in vain.”

Indivisible Man– Essay

“Perhaps future sociologists will say that they possess superior athletic abilities because of biological advantages peculiar to blacks; but perhaps by then each of these black boys will have gained enough of a sense of who he is to reply, ‘I’m good at what I do because I practiced it all my life.’ The encouragement of this sort: self-definition, has become almost a crusade with Ellison. But I also recognize that if I ran down and waved my arms and shouted to them, "Did you know that Ralph Ellison watches you play every afternoon?" they would continue to shoot at the basket and answer, ‘Who is Ralph Ellison?’”

"He spoke at Tugaloo last year," a black exchange student at Santa Cruz told me. "I can't stand the man."
"Why?"

"I couldn't understand what he was saying. He wasn't talking to *us*."

All of these experiences seem to have equal weight in his mind... he is likely to begin a discussion with observations he made when he was a shoeshine boy.

“The underlying assumption is that whites have a monopoly on individuality and intelligence and in order for a black man to lay claim to his, own he must change colors.

“Over and over, I see black kids' who are dropping out or rejecting intellectual disciplines as though what exists now will always exist and as though they don't have the possibility of changing it by using these disciplines as vehicles to affirm their sense of what a human life should be. It's there where I get upset.”

Deliberate repetition as it concerns condemning black boys for not prioritizing education but acknowledging the vehicles of white supremacy that inform this culture. Reference the *Haverford Statement*: “But instead of plunging in and testing themselves against the unknown, they choose rather to argue with the deficiencies of the past and to direct accusations against their parents... they have declared themselves a new breed, which perhaps they are.”

“When blacks come right along they said, you've been brainwashed: well, they don't realize that they're the ones who have been programmed.”

“Wright was right. We have that and have always had it. American writers have not yet learned to use what has been available to us: that listening post, that point of observation, which puts one in the position of making judgments, of seeing, or of exercising sympathy.”

Ralph Ellison's comments on notions presented by Richard Wright in his novel *The Outsiders*: an attempt to project the possibilities of negro writers with their position as the black domestic, housekeeper, and servant; the ability to be inside the American experience whilst concurrently being outside of it.

“When we study the position of great writers by social class, or by function, we find that they were in the position to observe from the very top of the society to the very bottom.... These are positions of observation, positions where values can be studied in action. And we have to do more of that. We have to project the imagination.” XXX

“But I do say that sometimes you can get so uptight about your disadvantages that you ignore your advantages. And sometimes we are encouraged to talk about how bad we are treated, and this becomes a sort of perverse titillation for white people.”

“A writer writes out of his own family background, out of his own immediate community, during his formative period. And he writes out of his own talent and his own individual vision. Now if he doesn't, if he tries to get away from that by bending it in some ideological line, then he is depriving the group of his uniqueness.”

He must interpret the experience of the group through his own anecdotal presentation.

Invisible Man – Novel

“A matter of construction of their inner eyes, those eyes with which they look through their physical eyes upon reality.”

It’s all behind the eyes.

“Something in this man’s thick head had sprung out and beaten him within an inch of his life.”

“Beware of those who speak of the spiral of history; they are preparing a boomerang. Keep a steel helmet ready.”

“To be unaware of one’s form is to live a death. I myself, after existing some twenty years, did not become alive until I discovered my invisibility.”

“And so, I play the invisible music of my isolation. The last statement doesn’t seem just right, does it? But it is; you hear the music because music is heard and seldom seen, except by musicians.”

Boomeranging of my expectations. ?!?!?!?

“I the knowledge which each of you, daughters and granddaughters, sons and grandsons of slaves, all of you partake in the dream in the bright and well-equipped classrooms.”

“For though I had not intended it, any act that endangered the continuity of the dream was an act of treason.”

There’s always an element of crime within freedom.

Invisibility is employed analogous to the white folks expecting nothing and very little of you

“Thoughts evaded me, hiding in the vast stretch of clinical whiteness to which I seemed connected only by a scale of receding greys... There was no getting around it, I could no more escape than I could think of my identity.”

Chapter 11- Invisible man undergoes his personality altering procedure in the factory hospital after his accident, which is when he says “Somehow I felt responsible” ... “Nor was I up to being both criminal and detective, though why criminal I don’t know.”

In the conversation he has with his former factory employer, where he is fired from his job, he asks himself, “Is he in on it too? Does he know Mr. Norton or Bledsoe?”

“We, he, him, my mind and I were no longer getting around in the same circles.

Page 285- Employment of the word shame, Context: the couple in their 80’s is evicted and they have nothing on the street to show for it, they are a law abiding people, so they ferociously and gracefully clear the streets and sidewalk of clutter and return the stuff where it belongs.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Letter From a Birmingham Jail – Analytical Essay

“We can never forget that everything Hitler did in Germany was legal and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did in Hungary was illegal. It was illegal to aid and comfort a Jew in Hitler's Germany. But I am sure that if I had lived in Germany during that time, I would have aided and comforted my Jewish brothers even though it was illegal. If I lived in a Communist country today where certain principles dear to the Christian faith are suppressed, I believe I would openly advocate disobeying these anti-religious laws.”

Fredrick Douglass

What to the Slave is the Fourth of July-

“Fellow citizens, I am not wanting in respect for the fathers of this republic... They were peace men, but they preferred revolution to peaceful submission to bondage. They were quiet men, but they did not shrink from agitating against oppression. They showed forbearance; but that they knew its limits. They believed in order, but not in the order of tyranny. With them, nothing was settled that was not right. With them, justice, liberty, and humanity were final, not slavery and oppression. You may well cherish the memory of such men. They were great in their day and generation. But their solid manhood stands out the more we contrast it with these degenerate times.”

Derick Bell

Faces at the Bottom of the Well-

“By requiring the discriminators to publicize his overt racism... the law may dilute both the financial and the psychological benefits of racism. Today even the worst racist denies being a racist. Most whites pay a tremendous price for their reflexive and often unconscious racism, but few are ready to post their racial preference on a public license...”

Michael Kimmel

Angry White Man-

“Aggrieved entitlement can mobilize one politically, but it is often a mobilization toward the past, not the future, to restore that which one feels has been lost. It invariably distorts one’s vision and leads to misdirected anger often at those just below you on the ladder, because clearly, they deserve what they are getting far less than you do.”

“We are a nation of many races and many cultures, that is true, it has been true from the beginning, but in the past people would come over and become Americans. Now they come over and they want you to become them.”

Toni Morrison

Playing in the Dark-

“Living in a nation of people who decide that their worldview would combine agendas for individual freedom and mechanisms for devastating racial oppression presents a singular landscape for the writer.”

“How compelling is the study of those writers who take responsibility for all of the values they bring to their art. How stunning is the achievement of those who have searched for and mined a shareable language for the words to say it.”

“As a writer reading, I came to realize the obvious: the subject of the dream is the dreamer.”

“When matters of race are located and called attention to in American literature, critical response has tended to be on the order of a humanistic nostrum, or a dismissal mandated by the label "political". Excising the political from the life of the mind is a sacrifice that has proven costly. I think of this erasure as a kind of trembling hypochondria always curing itself with unnecessary surgery. A criticism that needs to insist that literature is not only "universal" but also "race-free" risks lobotomizing that literature and diminishes both the art and the artist.”

“These images of impenetrable whiteness need contextualizing to explain their extraordinary power, pattern, and consistency. Because they appear almost always in conjunction with representations of black or Africanist people who are dead.”

“For in that construction of blackness and enslavement could be found not only the not-free but also, with the dramatic polarity created by skin color, the projection of the not-me.”

Beloved-

Brady Gibson

Use Your X-

“I conquer your existence until I let you conquer mine.”

“There is no more or less you and I could have done to save us from inquiries that author devastation in the space that I’ve created for you today. Did she love you more than I did? Says a mother to her lifeless son. A catoptric tristesse note was left in my room, explaining why she asks what she does. I returned to my room and rid the paper of construction. Not the ink. It’s been a little over two years and my mom might ask herself what she asks me every night. I hope the ink on these pages can help her find the answers that she needs, but no book has the spine to carry what I’ve done.”

“The pique blinking cursor on my screen can free us from the hidden detriment of our minds. Blinks that will tear us (me) down from the algebraic scaffolding that produces something from the nothing that X gives. When silence was the only answer afforded to me. Realizing that the absence of conversation says far more and translates deeper than words could ever.”

Steinbeck

The Grapes of Wrath—

Chapter 14—

“If this tractor were ours, it would be good, not mine, but ours. Not my land, but ours. We could love that tractor then as we loved our land when it was ours... But that tractor does two things: it turns the land and turns us off of it.”

“Keep these two squatting men apart; make them hate, fear, suspect each other. Here is the anlage of the thing you fear. This is the zygote. For here ‘I lost my land’ is changed; a cell is split and from its splitting grows the thing you hate. ‘We lost our land.’ The danger is here, for two men are not as lonely and perplexed as one.”

“[T]he quality of owning freezes you forever into ‘I’, and cuts you off forever from the ‘we’.”

Chapter 18—

“Ma’s face blackened with anger.”

“Well, you ain’t in your country now. You’re in California and we don’t want you goddamn okies settling here.”

“Well you ain’t gonna get no steady work. You gonna scrabble for your dinner every day. And you gonna do her with people looking mean at you. Pick cotton, an’ you gonna be sure them scales aint honest.”

“Pa asked slowly, “Aint it nice out there at all?... Sure, nice to look at, but you can’t have none of it.”

Chapter 19—

“Only means to destroy the revolt were considered, while the causes of the revolt went on.”

“a man might fight for land he's taken food from. Get him off quick! He'll think he owns it. He might even die fighting for the little plot among the Jimson weeds. We got to keep these here people down or they'll take the country. They'll take the country. Outlanders, foreigners. Sure, they talk the same language, but they ain't the same. Look how they live. Think any of us folks'd live like that? Hell, no!”

“Three hundred thousand. If they ever moved under a leader- the end.”

“And the association owners knew that someday the praying would stop. And there's the end.”

Chapter 20-

“Tom tried to restrain his hard smothered sobbing.”

“Rich fellas come up and they die and their kids' aint no good and they die out but Tom we keep a coming don't you fret none, tom. A different time is coming.”

Closest resemblance of Slave hope that I've seen so far. Chapter 20 is where Steinbeck highlights the lost humanity and the deterrence and degenerating human spirit.

End of chapter 20 we see Ma comforting Tom in an era when the Man is born to provide, protect and strengthen.

The poor people's global unit is being strengthened by display of Ma feeding children, Casey sacrificing himself for Tom, and the exchange between Al and bull simple as he asks for new stuff.

The Pearl –

The Songs that play, music of the pearl, the songs of the undersea, the songs of hurt; all family heritage considered, what songs do I hear today? A call to my origins and belief systems alike, the music I hear when I need to lock in renders the same melodies as the Song of the Pearl that Might be.

“But in the song there was a secret little inner song, hardly perceptible, but always there, sweet, and secret and clinging, almost hiding in the countermelody, and this was the Song of the Pearl That Might Be, for every shell thrown in the basket might contain a pearl. Chance was against it, but luck and the gods might be for it. And in the canoe above him Kino knew that Juana was making the magic of prayer, her face set rigid and her muscles hard to force the luck, to tear the luck out of the gods' hands, for she needed the luck for the swollen shoulder of Coyotito. And because the need was great and the desire was great, the little secret melody of the Pearl that Might be was stronger this morning. Whole phrases of it came clearly and softly into the Song of the Undersea”

“The essence of pearl mixed with essence of men and a curious dark residue was precipitated.

Every man suddenly became related to Kino's pearl, and Kino's pearl went into the dreams, the speculations, the schemes, the plans, the futures, the wishes, the needs, the lusts, the hungers, of everyone, and only one person stood in the way and that was Kino, so that he became curiously every man's enemy. The news stirred up something infinitely black and evil in the town; like hunger in the smell of food, or like loneliness when love is withheld. The poison sacs of the town began to manufacture venom, and the town swelled and puffed with the pressure of it.”

“This was to be the day from which all other days would take their arrangement, This they would say ‘It was two years before we sold the pearl’ or ‘it was six weeks after we sold the pearl’.”

“But the secret hand behind the desk missed in its precision. The coin stumbled over a knuckle and slipped silently into the dealer’s lap...

And his right hand went behind the desk and pulled another coin from his pocket and the coin rolled back and forth over his knuckles.”

"We do know that we are cheated from birth to the overcharge on our coffins. But we survive. You have defied not the pearl buyers, but the whole structure, the whole way of life, and I am afraid for you."

"What have I to fear but starvation?" Kino said.

“And when they came to the water's edge they stopped and stared out over the Gulf. And then Kino laid the rifle down, and he dug among his clothes, and then he held the great pearl in his hand. He looked into its surface and it was gray and ulcerous. Evil faces peered from it into his eyes, and he saw the light of burning. And in the surface of the pearl he saw the frantic eyes of the man in the pool. And in the surface of the pearl he saw Coyotito lying in the little cave with the top of his head shot away. And the pearl was ugly; it was gray, like a malignant growth. And Kino heard the music of the pearl, distorted and insane. Kino's hand shook a little, and he turned slowly to Juana and held the pearl out to her. She stood beside him, still holding her dead bundle over her shoulder. She looked at the pearl in his hand for a moment and then she looked into Kino's eyes and said softly, "No, you." And Kino drew back his arm and flung the pearl with all his might. Kino and Juana watched it go, winking and glimmering under the setting sun. They saw the little splash in the distance, and they stood side by side watching the place for a long time.

And the pearl settled into the lovely green water and dropped toward the bottom. The waving branches of the algae called to it and beckoned to it. The lights on its surface were green and lovely. It settled down to the sand bottom among the fern-like plants. Above, the surface of the water was a green mirror. And the pearl lay on the floor of the sea. A crab scampering over the bottom raised a little cloud of sand, and when it settled the pearl was gone.

And the music of the pearl drifted to a whisper and disappeared.”

Mark Twain

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer-

“Work consists of whatever the body is obliged to do. Play consist of whatever the body is not obliged to do.”

“That’s a mighty good nigger Tom. He likes me because I don’t ever act as if I was above him. Sometimes I set right down and eat with him. But you needn’t tell that, a body’s got to do things when he’s awfully hungry he wouldn’t want to do as a steady thing.”

Huck Finn has no pangs of conscience. He feels no qualms about having lifted (stolen) or borrowed certain items; he feels no compunction to live by the rules of society that has made him the outcast that he is. In fact, Huck has had a marvelous day because he is getting more to eat than he usually gets in the village.

“When you talked about notching ears and slitting noses, I judged that was your own embellishment, because white men don’t take that sort of revenge. But an Injun? That’s a different matter altogether.”

“Grub comes too easy, look here Tom, being rich aint what its cracked up to be, it’s just worry and worry and sweat and sweat.”

To loose / Not to loose

“A robber is higher toned than what a pirate is, as a general thing. In most countries they’re awfully high up in the nobility, dukes, and such.”

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn-

The One Million Dollar Bank Note -

David Ikard

Blinded by the Whites -

Nation of Cowards-

You attest that Holden alludes to an America in which all people, Black White and Brown, meet difficulty speaking openly in discussions of race. This contradicts notions presented by in class discussion and the assertions of Robin DiAngelo, that white people specifically have the hardest time talking about race. Do you

think this is because over time, your heritage and complexion has become what grants the license to talk about race?

Is Obama, a magical negro, in his own mind? Is he the enlightened exceptionalism?

“Even though a population of black folks are doing well socially and economically in this country, they are unfortunately the exceptions not the rule. To view their success as evidence that "race" is no longer a major obstacle to socioeconomic upward mobility for blacks is to render invisible the reality that those who have "made it" have done so despite racial obstacles not because racial obstacles no longer exists.”

“From 1960 to 2006, black children living in single parent homes increased by 155 percent. Comparably, white children living in single parent homes increased by a staggering 229 percent.”

“We propose that to foster the kind of grassroots social movement necessary to press our nation and post racial minded president into action about these crucial race issues, African American communities must first get their house in order by having uncomfortable conversations about longstanding, taboo cultural issues that inform and, at times, distort African Americans' thinking about political agency and self-determination. For these uncomfortable conversations to be useful and transformative, they must expose, challenge and, in some cases, explode the social terms on which black communities cope with extant white oppression and related acts of self-imposed victimization. Suffice it to say that a distinct, and perhaps inevitable, possibility exists that such conversations will be misappropriated in the mainstream by political conservatives and/or many post-racial thinkers-including some blacks to abdicate white culpability in African American suffering.”

Lovable Racist, Magical Negros, and White Messiahs-

CLR James

The Black Jacobins: Toussaint L'Ouverture and the San Domingo Revolution –

Mulattoes were originally afforded liberty because their whiteness was respected. However, the white intentions commanding this liberation were flaunt with hedonistic intentions, and the mulattoes were intended to work the low wage, demeaning jobs that weren't slavery, but also too degrading for a white man. Unanticipated, was the mulattoes rise to power and property ownership. White employed restrictive measures to mulatto people, which was of their distaste, henceforth their position in the revolution, working towards political rights and recognition. Inadvertently, contrasting agendas divided and pitted the mulattoes against the slaves, exacerbating an already existing feud between the two peoples.

The revolutionary origins were threefold:

- Whites to protect the state of their nation.

- Blacks to be liberated.
- Mulattoes to be appointed political rights.

The colonial assembly believed the only way to save the colony, post-unification, circa 1792, was to grant mulatto rights in hopes that they would police the negroes.

Major conflict arose between the little and big whites (poor/rich). Although the first initial slave revolt was suppressed, slaves lost were still to be considered property, and debt from these assets was still to be owed. Legislative enforcement in France refused to acknowledge the prospect of waiving these dues. Feuillants and Jacobins in France, whites, and Mulattoes in San Domingo, were still looking upon the slave revolt as a huge riot which would be put down in time, once the division between the slave-owners was closed.

Toussaint, with freedom for all in his mind, was in those early months of 1792 organizing out of the thousands of ignorant and untrained blacks an army capable of fighting European troops.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Intellect, Essay –

“The most wonderful inspirations die with their subject if he has no hand to paint them to the senses. The ray of light passes invisible through space and only when it falls on an object is it seen. When the spiritual energy is directed on something outward, then it is a thought. The relation between it and you first makes you, the value of you, apparent to me.”

“There is an inequality, whose laws we do not yet know, between two men and between two moments of the same man, in respect to this faculty.”

“How wearisome the grammarian, the phrenologist, the political or religious fanatic, or indeed any possessed mortal whose balance is lost by the exaggeration of a single topic. It is incipient insanity. Every thought is a prison also. I cannot see what you see, because I am caught up by a strong wind and blown so far in one direction that I am out of the hoop of your horizon.”

“The angels are so enamored of the language that is spoken in heaven that they will not distort their lips with the hissing and unmusical dialects of men, but speak their own, whether there be any who understand it or not.”

XXX

Experience –

How many individuals can we count in society? how many actions? how many opinions? So much of our time is preparation, so much is routine, and so much retrospect, that the pith of each man's genius contracts itself to a very few hours. The history of literature takes the net result of Tiraboschi, Warton, or Schlegel-is a sum of very few ideas and of very few original tales; all the rest being variation of these. – Reference the American Scholars essay by Waldo Emerson

On the platform of physics, we cannot resist the contracting influences of so-called science. Temperament puts all divinity to rout. I know the mental proclivity of physicians. I hear the chuckle of the phrenologists. Theoretic kidnappers and slavedrivers, they esteem each man the victim of another, who winds him round his finger by knowing the law of his being; and, by such cheap signboards as the color of his beard or the slope of his occiput, reads the inventory of his fortunes and character. The grossest ignorance does not disgust like this impudent knowingness.

Life itself is a mixture of power and form, and will not bear the least excess of either. To finish the moment, to find the journey's end in every step of the road, to live the greatest number of good hours, is wisdom.

Articles

1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2533683/>

“Here, we report an association between one of the human *genotype variations in the* RS3 and traits reflecting pair-bonding behavior in men, including partner bonding, perceived marital problems, and marital status, and show that the RS3 genotype of the males also affects marital quality as perceived by their spouses.”

Out of the many self-help and psychology books I read, the only one to mention the RS3 334 allele as described above was *Incognito: The Secret Lives of The Brain* by David Eagleman. There he writes that if society became scientifically literate and informed, every woman would want their potential spouses tested for genotype variations in the RS3 334 allele because the variations of this gene link to behavioral changes so drastic that direct correlations can be drawn between gene reception and infidelity.

2. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/24504272?searchText=Simulated+traces+of+four+targets+being+simultaneously+encoded+by+eSTST+model+%28top%29+during+a+sustained+attentional+episode+at+100+ms+stimulus+onset+asynchrony&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3DSimulated%2Btraces%2Bof%2Bfour%2Btargets%2Bbeing%2Bsimultaneously%2Bencoded%2Bby%2BeSTST%2Bmodel%2B%2528top%2529%2Bduring%2Ba%2Bsustained%2Battentional%2Bepisode%2Bat%2B100%2>

Columbus lost the Santa Maria on the shore of Hispaniola. The King of the island went to great lengths to help prompting this note to the Royal King and Queen of Spain: “They are so affectionate and have so little greed and are in all ways so amendable that I assure your Highness that there is in my opinion no better people and no better land in the world.”

He used the lumber and materials from the Santa Maria to build a settlement on the island called Navidad. He left some Christians there to learn the language and grow familiar with the land. He had one ship left to return to Castile. “He decided to make no further explorations since he now had only one ship and if this were wrecked their catholic sovereigns would have no knowledge of these kingdoms which he had just acquired for them.”

A great storm frustrates the return to Castille. Columbus throws two “Last” Notes explaining their voyage efforts and demise into the sea in case of death. The Nina reach finally reaches the Azores, a Portuguese Island. Here, the Admiral and his crew seek to fulfil their promise to pray for the other ship when the Natives and king of the land hold the Spaniards captive.

“When he heard this, the Admiral called on everyone in the caravel to bear witness, and in answer to the Portuguese Captain he swore he would not leave the caravel until they have captured a hundred Portuguese whom they would take home as prisoners and depopulate the island for Spanish taking.”

** Columbus later found out that the King of Portugal ordered to seize possessions and take the Admiral prisoner by “any means necessary”. Interesting to put in conversation with the reality that Portugal rejected Columbus and called him a fool for his proposals.

The Admiral found himself approaching the Kingdom of Portugal at sea and asked permission to anchor, letting it be known he would use any force necessary to protect himself and his findings in fear that the Portuguese would attempt to defame the Kingdom of Castille.

full-length studies of the Admiral's life: Samuel Eliot Morrison's *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* (Boston, 1942), which is strongest on the side of navigation, since its author followed most of the Admiral's journeys from port to port in his own yacht; and Salvador de Maradiaga *Christopher Columbus* (London, 1949), an exhaustive psychological study, which advances an interesting theory of Columbus's Jewish origins. The latest work, Björn Lindstrom's *Columbus* (London, 1967), is particularly illuminating on the subject of Columbus's ships, their provisions and equipment.

Authors I've Read

Kiese Laymon

Ralph Ellison

Richard Wright

James Baldwin

David Ikard

Toni Morrison

Henry Louis Gates

Norman Doidge

Cortlan Wickliff

CLR James

John Steinbeck

Brady Gibson

Evan Mandery

Derrick Bell

Fredrick Douglass

Martin Luther King

Zora Neale Hurston

Toni Cade Bambara

Edgar Allen Poe

Mark Twain

Ernest Hemmingway

Michael Kimmel

To Explore

Ernest Gaines, Cecil Brown, Michael Harper, Ishmael Reed, Al Young, The Outsider by Wright

Afford, license, purchase, grant, ownership, command, delineation, standard deviations, ascribe, denounce, classify, agency, quantify, informed, insulate,