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Summer Reading Assignment for INTD100: Coffee and Black Holes

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1. *This essay is in a narrative style, and is broken into several parts. Summarize part I in one paragraph, using 120 words or fewer. Note: The purpose of this exercise is to complete the summary in no more than a certain number of words. What key moments stand out in your mind? What is the central realization of the author at the end of the section?*
 - a. The first part of this essay is about the author's experiences living in Harlem and the effects of this father's death on his life. The author gives us details about the life of his father, and how his father lived. He also explains the effects his father's death left on his perspective of the world around him. The author realized the harassment and discrimination that his father always warned him about. He realized how much white people dominate this country and how black people are looked down upon compared to the others. The author never really dealt with any white people before his father's death, so this shocked him.
2. *Repeat exercise 1, but instead use only twenty words. What happens in part I of the essay?*
 - a. The author uses examples of his life to describe the discrimination he faced in his own city.
3. *Consider part III. Construct a tract of writing that a) defines and explains the poison metaphor the author describes at the funeral of his father, b) identifies the author's "cure" or cures for the poison, and c) provides several pieces of supporting evidence for the identification of the author's cure.*
 - a. The author uses "poison" as a metaphor to explain the constant discrimination his family and himself have to endure while living in Harlem. After his father's death, the author got to experience the "poison" his dad was facing. He learned what that "poison" was and how it affected not only him and his father, but other black people in this country. The "cure" for this poison would be people around him realizing their discriminatory acts against black people, but usually people are so silent about this obvious "cure." The author provides some examples of the antidote, those being the scenery of the city around him, like streets, signs, billboards, etc. The author then questions whether the antidote for this poison really does exist, or if the poison itself should be fought with more poison.
4. *Consider the final part of the essay, when the author describes the fight in the Hotel Braddock. Write a tract of between 200-400 words on the author's treatment of evidence and facts. What does the author have to say about the importance of facts about the fight to the people in that neighborhood? Notice the author's writing takes on the tone of a reporter regarding the ensuing riot. What facts stand out regarding the outcome?*
 - a. In part III, the author encounters an argument in a hotel lobby between a black soldier and a police officer. The two start arguing over a black woman. Rumors began over this argument, with people saying the soldier had been shot and

killed. This however, was not the truth. People then began rioting over this, causing the city to go into a frenzy. The author states the details of the riots. The rioters began destroying and targeting white owned businesses, instead of seeing the facts and truth of the case. The man was not shot nor was he defending the black woman, however nobody chose to believe this. He explains the reason the rioters did this was because they needed something to smash, something to get rid of the anger and hate they were holding inside of them. The author gives us plenty of details about the riots, including where the riots occurred, the main areas of interest, and perhaps why these were started in the first place. By explaining all of this, the author takes on a reporter tone, like he is reporting to us what had happened in Harlem during those days. The fact that stands out is that people avoided to see the truth, because everyone was so quick to assume due to past incidents such as this one.