Julys People

Pg.1.: Uses the word “kind” to segregate the people. It’s a book about race and right at the beginning it creates separation based on racial characteristics. Similar to what the Germans did to the Jews. Putting a number on a human makes them easier to exploit than a number. Knock on the door can be a benign knock but can also be a hard knock.

Nelson Mandela burnt his passport as a direct act of defiance. It is rebellious to the government. In a sense it is powerfully defying the government but you’re also saying, “I ain’t a number”. This is similar to Mohammed Ali burning his draft card in 1960s. Many Americans came to Canada as they didn’t wanna go to war.

Sharpeville Massacre [March 21, 1960] involved a group of “peaceful” people who held a protest and shot people in South Africa. Why was this wrong?

All the laws were designed to keep people segregated and prevent them from integrating. It kept the minority white in power and the majority black as oppressed.

**Race TRUMPS Citizenship**

Apartheid can be seen as state fascism.

\* Penny Whistle – One of the instruments used in “kwela…

Peter Horn’s poem is talking about how people get oblivious to their privilege. You can choose to see what you want to see and ignore the rest. AKA Confirmation Bias

Nelson Mandela because the first black PM of Africa

There is no point in revolting because you’ll lose or end up becoming the thing you dread

July’s People – Mwawate

July’s real name is Mwawate. Plot twist he turns out to be NOT July. This is because of the colonization process. It is better to give an assigned name to strip a little identity away.

The author chose to call the novel “July’s People”, which indicates possession. It works both ways where July having people or people having July. She asks us to think about the degree to which the Smales are entrapped by the system.

Pg.3.: “At first what fell into place was what was vanished…”

The shift boss is someone who makes the people work. The shift boss assigns the shifts and work to the people. The white peeps made the black peeps mine diamond and gold.

Naming is important. Names become changed due to colonialism.

“But Victor nagged for his racing car track…”

The kids think they own things. They become more and more kind of transmitters and inheritors of privilege and power.

Pg.15-17: She say, she can be very pleased you are in her house. She can be very glad to see you, long time now. July’s people…

Exchange of gifts represents colonialism.

Pg.21: Her son, who had seen the white woman…

Pg.22: The white woman’s hand… Without his white people back there…

Absence of touch between a sub-continent shows the disconnect between the people. The people whp are being colonized are trained to use the language of the colonizer. i.e. Ojibway is a lost language and is no longer spoken in Canada. Loss of language = loss of culture and identity.

Pg.8: Maureen’s little legacy of De Beers shares of maternal grandmother had left her

Think about implications of defining the roles of the people in this narrative. July’s people have brought those diamonds up from the ground.

Pg.9: The decently paid and contented male servant, living in their yard since they had married…

Maureen thinks that July likes being a servant because of the special treatment he gets. Maureen thinks that July is less of a person, and she belittles him.

Pg.24-25: “Bam and Infrastructure”

Bam is in the position to make a water tower. The infrastructure is a sign of colonialism because it is used to expedite the process of shipping the goods from place to place. i.e. Getting Beavers to Paris and London.

Pg.28: “I Promessi Sposi”

Meaning = “The betroth”.

Pg.29: They had nothing…

In colonialism, materials are everything are used to define wealth among other things. If someone has no materialistic possessions then they have nothing.

Pg.30: “Boss Boy”

White people controlling black people. Think about infantilization. Even though the term “Boss” is used, it is used on a “boy” which represents the opposite of “boss”. It is oxymoron.

Pg.69: “But I’m work for you. Me I’m your boy”

“Herrenvolk” (30 – 3) (This means master race)

Camera is seen as a weapon as it is aimed at someone.

Why did Lydia carry the case?

Uncle Tom, who is this? Is it Simon Le Gree?

July driving the car switches the master-slave relationship between July and Bam. In some countries (i.e. Saudi Arabia) women can’t drive.

Pg.137: “He thought of the pass-book as finished”

Pg.69: “You don’t like I must keep the keys. Isn’t it. I can see all the time. You don’t like that…”

July is beginning the understand how he is a boy. He knows it’s wrong but he can’t escape the position.

Pg.120: “How many you got there by Mwawate’s place?”

Pg.127: “Learning ballet dancing instead of the despised Fanagalo”

See: Gullah

Gullah is the language used by the black slaves in the US

Pg.139: “She was not in possession of any part of her life”

Pg.142: Think about the gun and how it was gone

Pg.145: “You c’n tell the police, dad… She looked down on this man who had nothing, now”

The child is still

Pg.148: “She was unrecorded in any taxonomy but that of Maureen Hetherington on her points to applause in the Mine Recreation Hall”

Maureen loses in the end. If the helicopter has black people then she is gonna die. If there are white people then she realizes that she is complicit with white privilege.

Pg.152: “You spread his knees and put on open hand on each”

When July becomes Mwawate he starts speaking his language and that’s when Maureen realizes she is a cuck.