*Part I:*

Map #3 - Crash

I chose this map, *Crash*, because of the events that are portrayed within the map. There are four, very distinct events on the map: the 9/11 Plane Crashes, the 2008 Financial Crash, the 2011 Occupy Wall Street event, and Hurricane Sandy. At first, I wasn’t convinced that these events should all be categorized under the title crash. After reading the article, I better understood why each of those events were chosen for this map. While they may seem different on the surface, they overlap and intersect one another. The first event, the 9/11 Attacks, set up the theme: money and Wall Street. From there, the author then weaves threads of money and Wall Street through each of the events. The Financial Crisis, the Occupy movement, and Hurricane Sandy all affected the financial world and Wall Street in their own ways.

Map #4 - Riot

I chose this map because it is plotting one thing very effectively: riots that have occured within lower Manhattan over the years. This map is effective on its own, but is made more effective by the writing the author provides with it. The author starts with two stories about riots that they were personally caught in the center of, a riot by the poor and a riot by the police, before moving into historical riots and their backgrounds. What the author does here is make the map more effective by providing context and perspective to the things that would otherwise just be words on a map. The map alone is effective through its color and the way it labels the riots, but adding context to the riots makes the emotional aspect of the map more tangible.

Map #12 - City of Walkers

I chose this map because I often enjoy taking long walks around my own town during the summer, usually for a few hours. This map is extremely simple: it is a line that follows the same route as the author took to walk around the city for 24 hours. Without context, this map is very shallow. The walk itself is meaningless to anyone but the person that took it and anyone that isn’t intrigued by things like 24 hour-long walks. What the author does here is expand this notion of walking beyond just the western perspective. He uses immigration and diversity to inspire the idea of travelling and how walking is the main mode of transport for many people who came to New York to start a new life. The writing makes this map significantly more impactful by giving the reader new perspective on what walking can mean to different people.

*Part II*:

*Summer Stroll*

Often in the summer, the midday temperature can get into the low-90’s and incredibly humid. The UV index, like the temperature, is unforgiving as well, reaching into 7’s and 8’s. Summer is the season of choice for most people because it means they can spend the most time outside with long stretching days that last until 8:00 PM. People would always prefer to go out on a day where they are required to wear sunscreen and sunglasses rather than a jacket and pants. The days that are the best for myself, are the days where the temperature reaches into the 80’s and starts cool off around 5:00 PM: that means I can take my summer stroll.

I was never big on going to different places during the summer. I would always prefer to be in my own town, enjoying the freedom from school during the summer break. Unfortunately, summer break occurs during the season that I do not agree with: summer. For my tastes, summer in New Jersey is always too hot and too humid during the day to do anything worth doing outside. Despite this, during highschool, I took a walk during the summer starting at 5:30 PM, just as things started to cool down. The temperature was perfect: not hot and sunny enough to require sunglasses and suntan lotion, and not chilly enough to require a jacket. Since it was such a nice day, I decided to take a long walk. The route I would take was a four mile stroll around my hometown: from my house down to the lake, the backroads behind the highschool, through the highschool grounds, down past the elementary and middle schools, under the train tracks, through town and back to my house. Walking down to the lake during the summer is always fun. There is always some cool bird waiting in the lake to be seen and summery-sounds of birds, cicadas, and sports going on. The roads behind the highschool are quiet are flat, leading me up to the high school campus which is always eerily quiet during the summer months. Following the road down past the elementary and middle schools brings me down to the train station where I loved watching the trains go by when I was little. Going under the tracks takes me through town which is always alive during the summer and leads me back to the original route back to my home. This was the perfect route. It was a loop that took me past my favorite parts of town and took about an hour and forty-five minutes. I got back to my house just as the sun set and decided this was my new summer outing. Every summer since, I have walked this route after dinner, reliving the perfect summer day whenever I can.