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| **English 4U Active Reading Notes**  **SECONDARY SOURCES (PART 1)** | | | |
| **Section 1**  **Historical Context** | | | |
| **Quotations from Secondary Source** | **Synthesis (Explain the Quotation in your own words)** |  | **MLA Citations** |
| “As I pondered the crumbling concrete structures that block horizons and aspirations for black residents in cities like my native St. Louis and his native Baltimore, I could not help but demand answers to the embers left behind in the bleak aftermath of upheaval.” (Lewis 3).  “With regard to the history of race in America and its impact on whites, Coates maintains that, for whites to comfortably enjoy their ill-begotten gains, they must believe that they are deserving of their current prosperity in ways that others, especially blacks, are not.” (Grizzle 2).  “By 1839 the Mississippi slave-worked cotton plantation had demonstrated its superiority as a unit for producing the great southern people…Whenever the circumstances permitted, farmers purchased slaves in order to enlarge the scope of their farming operations…A planation ranging in size from 1,000 to 1,500 acres and worked by a crew numbering from 75 to 100 able-bodied field hands was generally regarded as ideal.” (Moore 17). | In this quotation, the author draws parallel between the black residents in his hometown and Coates’ hometown. Whether it is St. Louis, Baltimore, or any city in the US, once upon a time, black residents had contributed to the development of the city, had fought for rights and equality. However, the “upheaval” of the black population didn’t change the reality that black residents are segregated from the white population.  This quotation exemplifies Coates’ view on the notions of race that persist in the minds of white Americans. Coates strongly believes that because the white population believes that they deserve their gains and prosperity in ways that the black population do not, white supremacy begins to form in society. Eventually, white supremacy dominates white American’s notion, resulting in a lack of realization of the social injustice faced by the black population. As the notion of race becoming part of American culture, violations against black citizens’ rights began to occur. Unfortunately, it became reasonable for white Americans to avoid their responsibility for oppressing black citizens.  This quotation summarizes the details of cotton plantation in Mississippi prior to the Civil War. Farmers in Mississippi plant cottons to make profits. During this time, slaves were treated as a type of cheap labor, an equipment to generate profit, a way to enlarge the scope of cotton operations. The quotation also provides specific numbers of able-bodied slaves needed for a single planation, “75 to 100 able-bodied field hands was generally regarded as ideal.” These statistics reveal the amount of African Americans being considered as profitable and mistreated. Clearly, slaves are crucial to the success and prosperity of the cotton kingdom. |  | Lewis, Thabiti. "How Fresh and New is the Case Coates Makes?" *African American Review* 49.3 (2016): 192-96. University of Toronto Library. Web. 4 Apr 2017.  Grizzle, Gary. “Between the World and Me.” *Theory in Action* 9.2 (2016): 109-16. Questia. Web. 18 Apr. 2017.  Moore, John Hebron. *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770-1860*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State UP, 1988. Web. 19 May 2017. |
| **Section 2**  **Social Context** | | | |
| **Quotations from Secondary Source** | **Synthesis (Explain the Quotation in your own words)** |  | **MLA Citation** |
| “The emotional tone in print is what he has shared with his own son; it is what I have shared with my own daughters, my parents with me, and Coates’s own father with him. This, and the familiar coming-of-age truth that every black child receives from sane parents.” (Lewis 2).  “But again, I must admit I am puzzled that at a time when youth are rising up against oppression and are trying to make sense of blatantly racialized injustice—trying to come to grips with their place in a world that refuses to guarantee for them freedoms that so many others take for granted—that Coates would offer his son a history of brutalized black bodies with little direction from such fates.” (Lewis 5).  “For Coates, “race is a child of racism, not the father” (p. 9), and creating race by whites a means of creating a separate identity for themselves and in so doing denying the right to nonwhites to secure and govern one's own, dark-skinned body.” (Wood 2).  “Most of the conferees agreed that the least acceptable method of combatting crime in Black communities is the cry for more repressive police measures. This is left to the advocacy of the "law-and-order" types, both Black and white. The Black community has had its fill of police shooting down bicycle thieves and arbitrarily stopping Black men as robbery suspects. On the other hand, it seems that many Black residents are tired of sleepless nights and triple-locked doors.” (Andrews 4). | This quotation exemplifies how Coates manages to display the tradition of African American wisdom teaching. Under the influence of racism, it is a tradition that African-American parents telling their children about how to protect themselves from social injustice. In the letter to his son, Coates explains how his father told him that if Coates wasn’t beaten by his father then Coates would be beaten by the police. This kind of wisdom teaching reflects how racism has never come to an end and how the black parents are always aware of the harm and risk associated with racism.  This quotation portrays how youth in contemporary society are trying to rise up against oppression and injustice. In Coates’ book, Coates admits that his son’s generation is full of hope, energy, and determination. His son’s generation wants to fight for equality and achieve social justice. However, Coates doesn’t advice his son to battle for his freedom. Instead, Coates tries to dismantle the myths that his son’s generation believe in by explaining the history of brutalized black bodies and why it is impossible for the future generation to change the fate of African Americans.  This quotation explains how Coates defines the relationship between race and racism. In the book, Coates explains how racism makes people view different race differently, prompts people to separate themselves by their skin color, and triggers inhuman and unfair actions between races, such as lynching and redlining. Racism separates the black from the white. And the black race was created by the white race so there is a class of people that lays the foundation for the privileged race to stand upon.  This quotation indicates that in contemporary society, the worst case of combatting crime in black communities is crying for more repressive police measures. From “arbitrarily stopping black men as robbery suspects” to “shooting down bicycle thieves”, many black residents are killed by police due to the reason that the black population has a higher rate of homicide and hence are more suspicious than other races. The last sentence, “black residents are tired of sleepless nights and triple-locked doors” reveals the fear among African Americans themselves. The impact of white society made African Americans become afraid of people who are in the same color as them. |  | Lewis, Thabiti. "How Fresh and New is the Case Coates Makes?" *African American Review* 49.3 (2016): 192-96. University of Toronto Library. Web. 4 Apr 2017.  Lewis, Thabiti. "How Fresh and New is the Case Coates Makes?" *African American Review* 49.3 (2016): 192-96. University of Toronto Library. Web. 4 Apr 2017.  Wood, Joseph. “Reading  Baltimore in the Breach.” *The AAG Review of Books* 5 (2017): 126-137. Informa UK Limited. Web. 23 Apr. 2017.  Andrews, Judith S. "Black on Black Crime." *New Directions* 2.3 (1975): 2-5. Howard University. Web. 15 May 2017. |

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| **Do You Have A Critical Eye?**  **Critical Reading Document**  **Complete HIGHLIGHTED sections ONLY!** |

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| **Critical Reading/Literacy** | **Think About** | **Evidence from Source**  **(2 examples)** | **Synthesis/ Explain** |
| **Word Choice** | * **Neutral?** * **Positive?** * **Negative?** * **Inflammatory?** * **Reflect bias?** | “As I pondered the crumbling concrete structures that block horizons and aspirations for black residents in cities like my native St. Louis and his native Baltimore, I could not help but demand answers to the embers left behind in the bleak aftermath of upheaval.” (Lewis 3).  **“**What is stellar in Coates' account is his depiction of the history of race in America and its impact on citizens, both black and white. While this depiction is long on proclamation and short on documentation, as befits such a personal missive, it nevertheless expresses an understanding of our racial history that is shared by Coates and a host of others, including scholars of many stripes.” (Grizzle 1). | Through the use of words with negative connotation, such as “crumbling’, “bleak”, and “embers”, the author is able to reveal that black population’s contribution didn’t affect white American’s treatment towards them. In reality, black residents are still being segregated from the white population. Since the author of this article is an African American, the author’s word choice reflects the author’s bias and his hopeless attitude towards the future of African Americans.  This quotation exhibits Grizzle’s employment of diction to communicate his view regarding to the impact of *Between the World and Me*. Words such as “stellar” reveals Grizzle’s respectful attitude towards Coates’ book. The sentence “While this depiction is long on proclamation and short on documentation, as befits such a personal missive, it nevertheless expresses an understanding of our racial history that is shared by Coates and a host of others”, reflects both positive side and negative side of *Between the World and Me*. Because arguments that support both strengths and weaknesses of Coates’ book are exemplified, Grizzle is unbiased and credible. Thus, readers will be more inclined to agree with Grizzle’s opinion. |
| **Credibility** | * **Author (ie: titles, credentials)** * **Publication Source** * **Facts/Stats (validity)** * **Date (current)** | “Thabiti Lewis is an associate professor of English at Washington State University Vancouver. He is editor of Conversations with Toni Cade Bambara. His essays have appeared in CLA Journal, AmeriQuest, The Crisis, and in a range of popular media outlets. His scholarship focuses on the Black Arts Movements, the writer Toni Cade Bambara, and masculinity in African American literature and culture.” (Lewis 6).  “John Hebron Moore is professor of history at Florida State University. He is the author of Andrew Brown and Cypress Lumbering in the Old Southwest and Agriculture in antebellum Mississippi and has contributed essays to a number of other books.” (*The University of South Caroline Press*). | This quotation supports the credibility of the author. Thabiti Lewis’s essays are credible, and have been published on a wide range of popular media outlets. In addition, Lewis has profound knowledge in African American literature and culture. Therefore, Lewis’ article is a credible piece of work.  John Hebron Moore is the author to many historical essays and books. As a professor of history at Florida State University, Moore has profound knowledge in American history and a rich experience in explaining American history to his audience. The majority of Moore’s works focus on history in the Old Southwest. His work *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770-1860* is a credible piece of literature that examines the history associated with the cotton industry in old Mississippi. |
| **Voice** | * **Point of View** * **Acknowledgement of opposite POV (What information has been left out?)** * **Is POV represented in one source or from complete source list?** | “Although an older generation has shrugged at Coates’s offering of history and philosophical questions about fear and black bodies as something revelatory, many young readers feel otherwise. Even if his frightening array of critical questions without answers is not within the trajectory of the African American essay, one cannot ignore the terrible beauty of the prose.” (Lewis 5).  “[*Between the World and Me*] has also generated a great deal of attention in the mainstream media, though oddly not in scholarly journals as of yet, with critical responses ranging from celebration, to consternation, to condemnation, to every possible combination of the three. That this work is both popular and divisive is no surprise given the unevenness of Coates’ account, some of which is stellar, and some of which is lamentable.” (Grizzle 1). | In this quotation, Lewis shows readers two different interpretations of the message Coates conveys throughout *Between the World and Me*. The older generation considers Coates’ message as something old and revelatory. However, the younger readers feel Coates’ message is something new and fresh. Although Lewis expresses two points of view on the impact of Coates’ book, at the end, Lewis states that *Between the World and Me* is a powerful prose that provokes readers to ponder and reflect.  This quotation illustrates that *Between the World and Me* generates different responses among its readers. Some of the context resonates well with some aspects of the public but less so with some others. Grizzle exemplifies all perspectives that the public has upon Coates’ book by commenting on how “critical responses ranging from celebration, to consternation, to condemnation, to every possible combination of the three.” As seen from the aforementioned, Grizzle expresses voices from everyone in his article, thus, making him an unbiased author. |
| **Type of Evidence** | * **Is this an empirical piece? A theoretical piece? What support does the author summon for her/his points?)** | “As I pondered the crumbling concrete structures that block horizons and aspirations for black residents in cities like my native St. Louis and his native Baltimore, I could not help but demand answers to the embers left behind in the bleak aftermath of upheaval.” (Lewis 3).  “A planation ranging in size from 1,000 to 1,500 acres and worked by a crew numbering from 75 to 100 able-bodied field hands was generally regarded as ideal.” (Moore 17). | This quotation reveals that Lewis’ article is an empirical piece of article that is based on his observation and experience. Lewis portrays cities based on his memory to convey the message that African Americans’ contribution to society didn’t help end the racism existed in America society.  Moore’s application of statistics demonstrates that *The Emergence of the Cotton Kingdom in the Old Southwest: Mississippi, 1770-1860* is a theoretical piece of literature. The book was written based on real events that took place in the Old Southwest before and during the Civil War. |
| **Making Connections**  **(Connections to the Other Readings?)** | * **Does this article inform your understanding of other authors/articles?** | “The problem is that Coates is among the few that have the stage at the present moment. We all know that there is a diverse field of black thought and that those voices are muted. And one may be fearful to critique for fear that a critique will dissuade any of us from having a voice in the mainstream.” (Lewis 5).  “With the plantations of Saint-Domingue inoperative, European demand for cotton pushed the price of that fiber to unprecedented heights at the very time when Natchez planters were entering the trade. By another fortunate coincidence, Eli Whitney’s recently invented cotton gin became available to the new cotton growers of the lower Mississippi Valley, permitting them to take full advantage from the booming cotton market.” (Moore 4). | As implied by Lewis, the message that Coates conveys in *Between the World and Me* is considered special because Coates’ voice is one of the only Black voices that’s heard by society. This quotation helps me understand that due to racism, African American’s voice is underrepresented in society. This quotation explains why some authors consider the message that Coates conveys is something new, and reveals African Americans’ fear of expressing their opinions.  Moore states that Europe’s demand for cotton increased the price of cotton and generated economic profit in the Mississippi Valley. In Coates’ book and many other articles, the Mississippi Valley is often mentioned as a place where many wealthy white Americans mistreated African Americans. Moore’s article explains the reason behind the injustice against African American was the precious opportunity to gain prosperity. This article helps me understand the history in the Old Southwest and why many inhumane acts against African Americans took place in the Mississippi Valley. |
| **Implications for Your Work** | * **Identify ways in which this piece of research could be used in your essay/paper/assignment** | “By 1839 the Mississippi slave-worked cotton plantation had demonstrated its superiority as a unit for producing the great southern people…Whenever the circumstances permitted, farmers purchased slaves in order to enlarge the scope of their farming operations…A planation ranging in size from 1,000 to 1,500 acres and worked by a crew numbering from 75 to 100 able-bodied field hands was generally regarded as ideal.” (Moore 17).  “The emotional tone in print is what he has shared with his own son; it is what I have shared with my own daughters, my parents with me, and Coates’s own father with him. This, and the familiar coming-of-age truth that every black child receives from sane parents.” (Lewis 2). | This quotation summarizes the details of cotton plantation in Mississippi prior to the Civil War. It also discusses about how African Americans were treated as slaves to generate profits. This quotation will be incorporated in the historical context section of my essay to provide background information about slavery, and support my argument that slavery has been woven into American culture since America’s early age.  This quotation exemplifies how Coates displays the tradition of African-American wisdom teaching. It will be used in the social context section of my essay, specifically the paragraph that discusses about black-parent wisdom teaching. This quotation explains that black-parent wisdom teaching resonates well within black communities. In fact, as stated by Lewis, not only Coates, but also many other black parents explain the danger of being destroyed by the white-dominated society with their children. |