

C&T Extra Credit Notes
Ralph Ellison
"The Invisible Man"

*Prologue

- Invisible Man - how others perceived him.
 - "I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me".
- Beats up a man after being called a derogatory name
 - "I kicked him in a frenzy because he still uttered insults though his lips were frothy with blood"
 - Was this his last straw? Was he fed up with this attitude?
 - Why does he say that he was ashamed and disgusted?
- Steals power from Monopolated Light and Co.
 - "I use their service and pay them nothing at all, and they don't know it"
 - He used to pay them for their service, now he just steals it.
- What does his blackness have to do with invisibility?
 - (HH6) "Before I lived in the darkness into which I was chased, but now I see. I've illuminated the blackness of my invisibility and vice versa"
 - Example of Louis Armstrong -making poetry out of being invisible
- The entire mood of the Prologue seems to carry a more resilient tone
- (HH4) "Invisibility, let me explain, gives one a slightly different sense of time, you're never quite on the beat"
- Time?
 - Sense of control (destiny)
 - If you have no sense of control then you have to wait for opportunities
 - Yokel waited for one opportunity and beat the fighter

prize

*Chapter 1

- Grandfather's Death
 - Influential Person in his life
 - Spy/Traitor
 - On what? His people? For what?
 - War Ex: Fight w/ whites but we come back and are betrayed by them
- Battle Royal
 - He is their to give a speech - it turns into a boxing match
 - He is humiliated in front of everyone
 - They eventually let him perform his speech, but nobody listens to him.
 - Grant him a scholarship to a Negro College
 - Message sent- You can learn, but no your place
- Dream at the End
 - In his dream he sees the reality of what actually transpired
 - Nothing changed