

Discussion Notes

- To My Husband p. K-20
- When Black Men's Teeth Speak Out p. 189
- Fog p. 137
- He who has lost everything p. 143
- Africa p. 145
- Portrait p. 141

- To My Husband
 - Modernization of Africa
 - loss of culture
 - symbolized in change of name
 - forgetting past
 - Name is Important
 - Griot tradition
 - reflects heritage
 - Makes wife use modern utensils
 - misses tradition
 - Adopts western culture even when unpractical
 - In the end they lost more than they gained

- When Black Men's Teeth Speak Out
 - White man stereotype when they're really guilty
 - Shows how dangerous it is when people don't look for facts

- cost him his life
 - Little tourist boy's remark is enough for them to disembowel a native
 - tourists are wealthy white people
 - Expect to find man, but find tomato field
 - maybe representative of vegetables in his stomach, or the red of his insides
 - accuse natives of cannibalism but the whites bring the violence
- Fog
 - Taking someone out of context, from nature to city
 - Negative view of city because memories are bad
 - fog characterizes city
 - symbolic of new culture causing him to forget
 - What is the purpose of dreams?
 - Become modernized
 - dreams are dying, maybe his past dreams for modernization
 - Perhaps talking about Paris
 - Perhaps fog is representative of whites
 - suppress his culture
 - destroying his dreams
 - Shadows- representative of dreams or culture
 - Hounds represent his hunger, or longing for past, or his pursuit of a goal

- He Who Has Lost Everything
 - Take on what happened when Africans were taken away into slavery
 - Women and children have a chance to adapt, but not the dominant man
 - What do uniforms represent?
 - Women kiss whites by choice for same reason
 - First paragraph utopia, second paragraph tainted life
 - cultural violence
 - Silenced by chains of slavery in the end
 - Slavery of women and children is the loss of their culture
 - supplication to conqueror
 - Was this their preferred form of slavery?
 - Did they have a choice?
 - Tom-tom represent past culture and now are wiped out

- Africa
 - Grass is greener mindset
 - Never been to Africa
 - Question of whether this reflects current situation or his perception