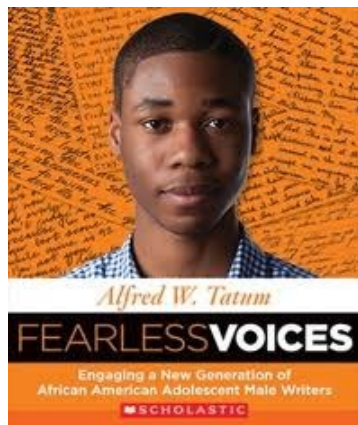
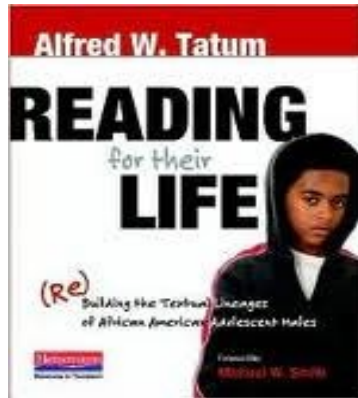
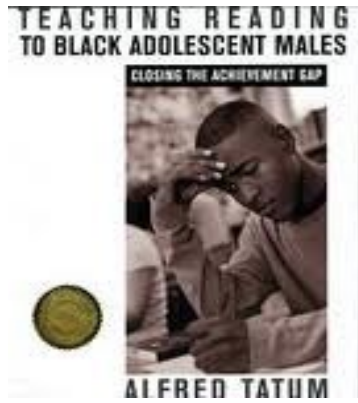


Toward Advanced Literacy Development in the U.S.



Alfred W. Tatum, Ph.D.
Metropolitan State University of Denver
atatum1@msudenver.edu

Teaching Black
Boys in the
Elementary
Grades: An
Advanced
Literacy
Perspective



@AlfredTatum

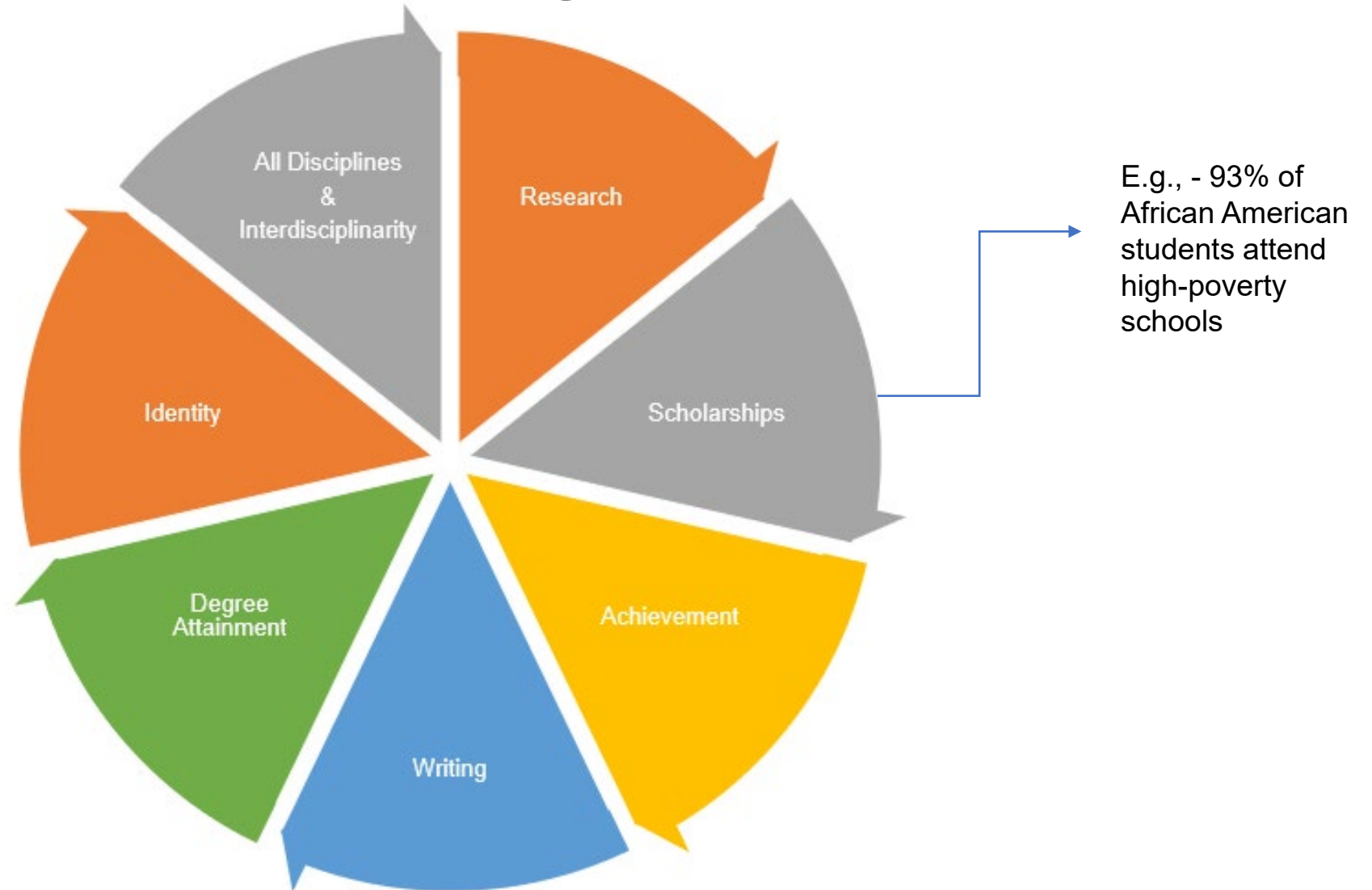
Districts' Strategic Plans, Goals, and Missions



Literacy Development



Career and College Readiness



Literacy Development



Undeserved to Underserved to Underrepresented

Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Trades

- Leveling
- High interest, low readability
- Modified texts
- Differentiation that never stops
- IEP plans for regular instruction

All based on limited research

.0005%

Disciplines

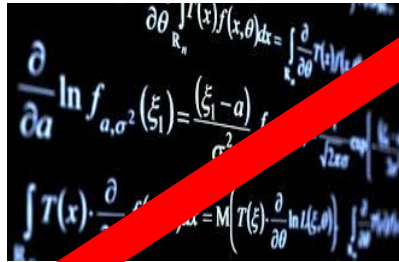
Physics



Biology



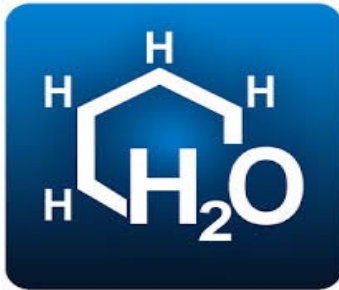
Mathematics



Literature



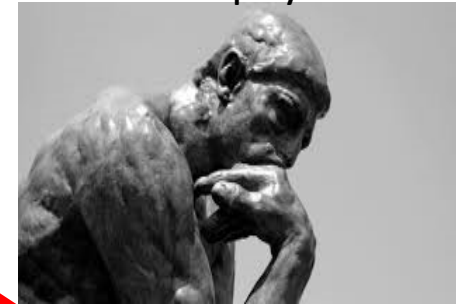
Chemistry



Law



Philosophy



Medicine



Sociology



Engineering



Economics





The Racial Landscape of the United States and Geosciences in 2010

	United States Population ^a	Bachelor Degrees in Earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences ^b	Bachelor Degrees in Earth sciences ^b	Employed Earth scientists, geologists, and oceanographers ^c
White	64%	81%	80%	87%
Hispanic	16%	5%	5%	4%
Asian	5%	3%	3%	7%
Black	12%	2%	2%	1%

^a - Does not include Others (Source: http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/2013/pdf/nsf13304_digest.pdf)

^b - Does not include American Indians, Others and Temporary Residents (Source: <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/2013/pdf/tab5-3.pdf>)

^c - Does not include More than 1 race (Source: http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/2013/pdf/tab9-6_updated_2013_11.pdf)





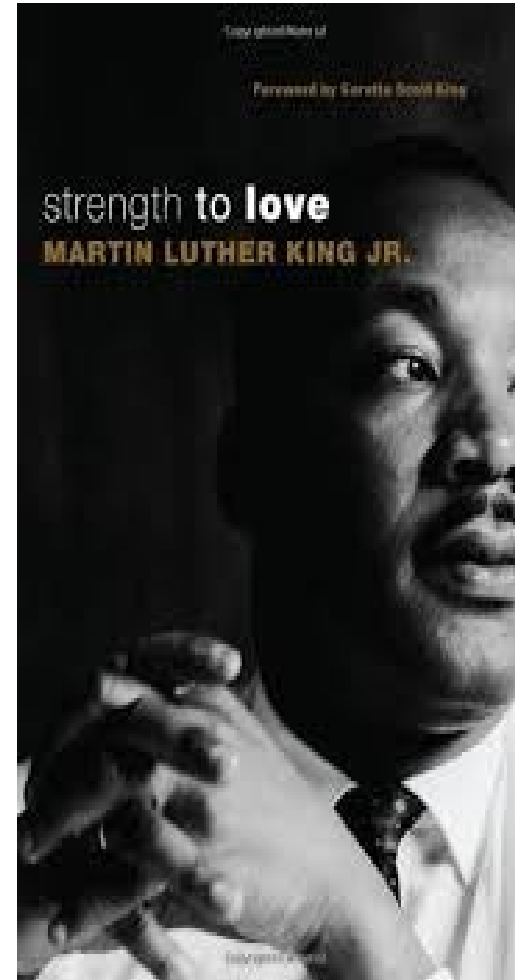
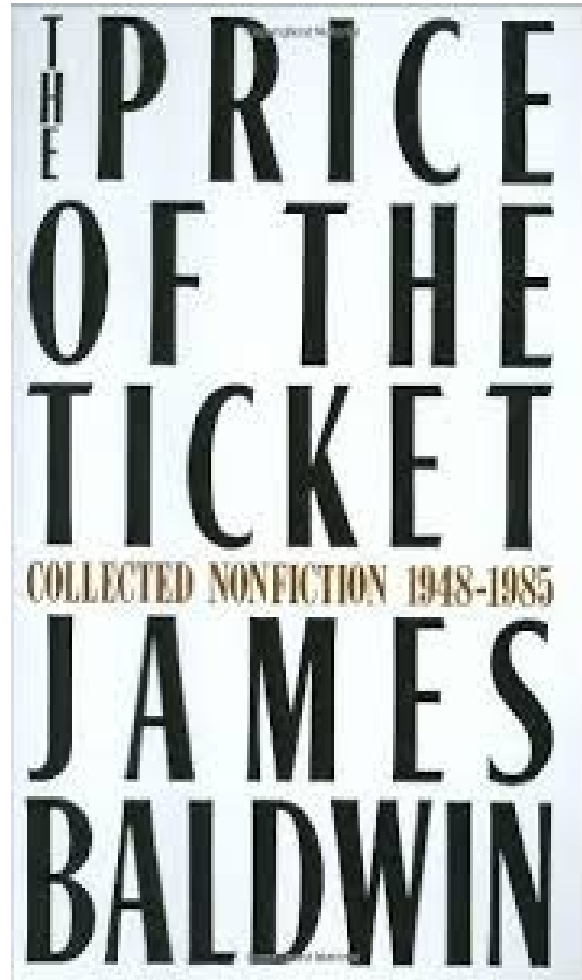
Aggression toward Basic and Proficient Reading

Know-your-Place Disciplinary Aggression

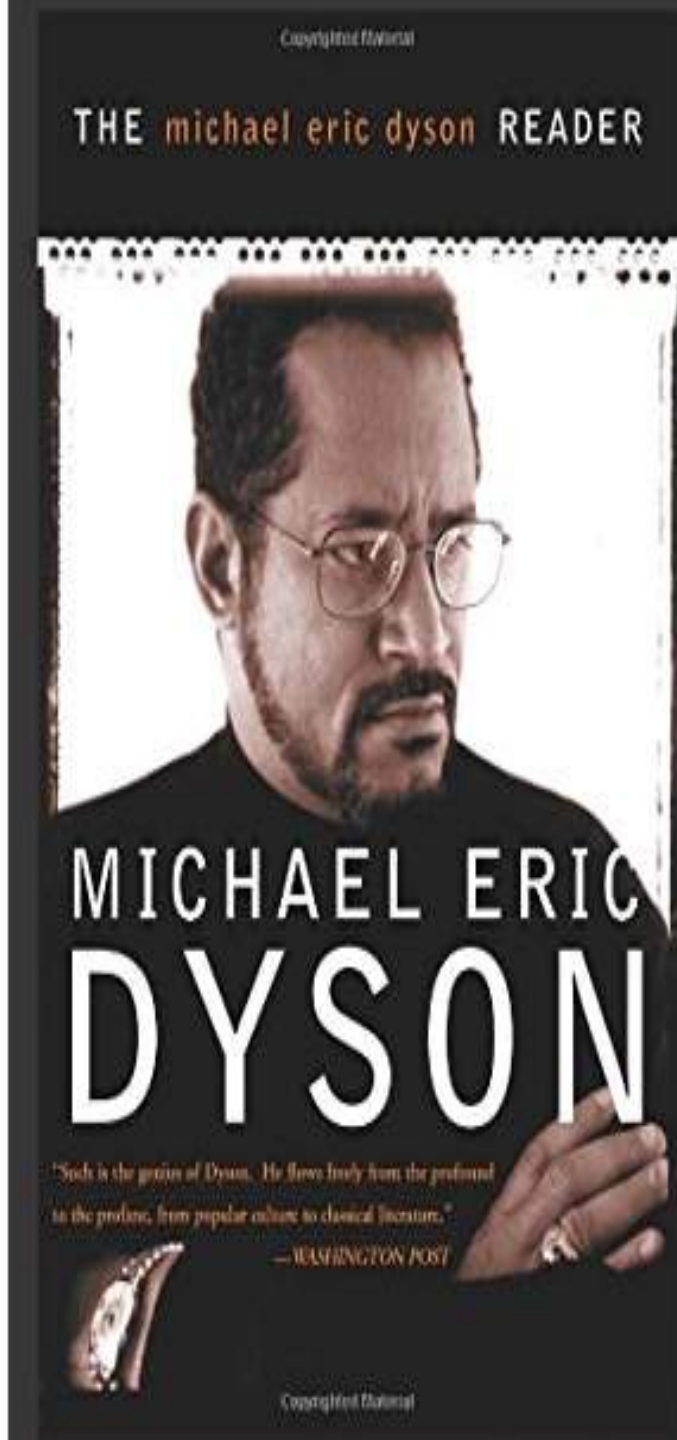
While physicists, technologists, transhumanists, and artificial intelligence researchers are discussing the **complexity of superintelligence** and **engaging in public debates about how much smarter things can get in the future**, **the focus on the literacy development in public schools has stalled on debates about ways to achieve basic or proficient reading.** The distance between these debates are light-years apart. The focus on educating students in public schools has been parked in an 18th century conceptualization when census data indicated if a person could read or not.

Literacy GPS

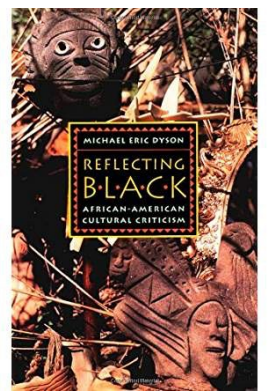
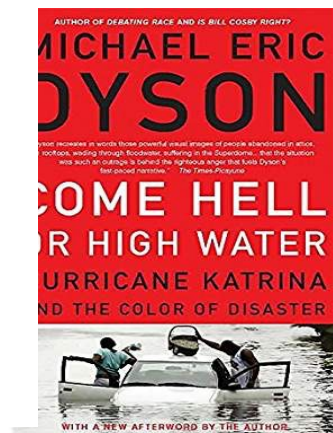
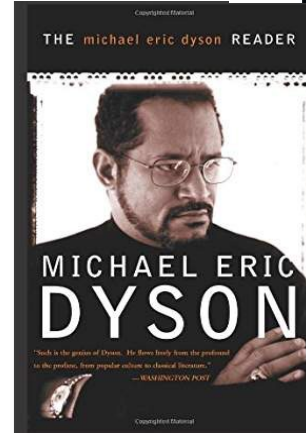
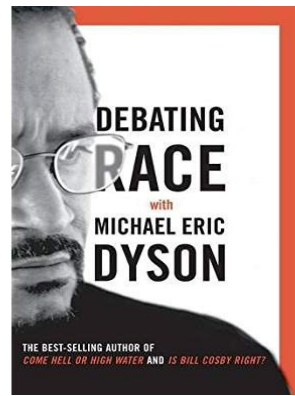
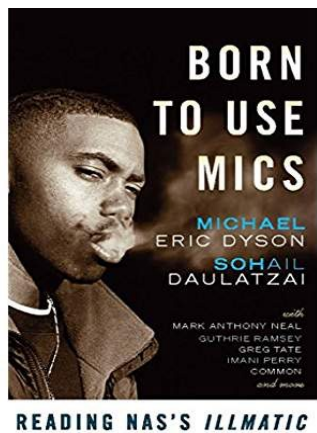
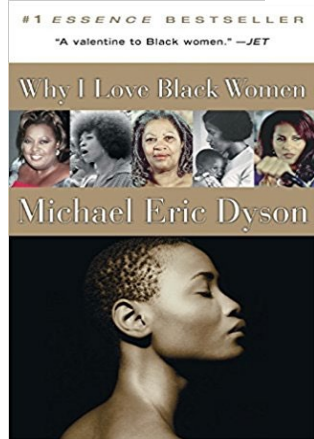
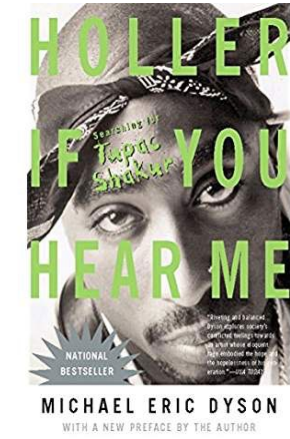
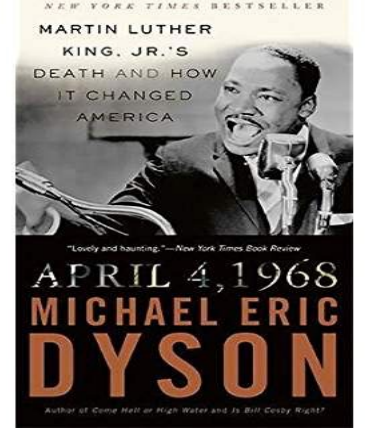
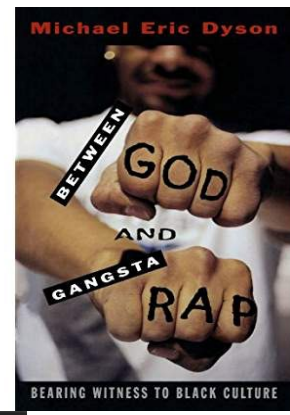
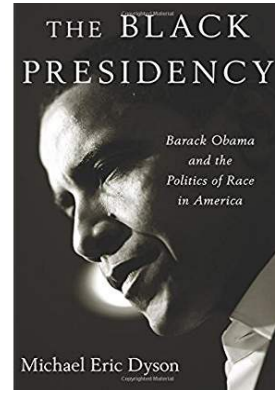
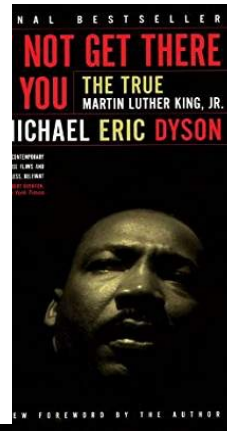
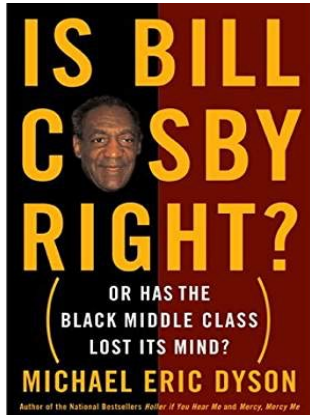
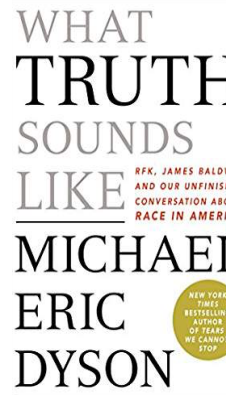
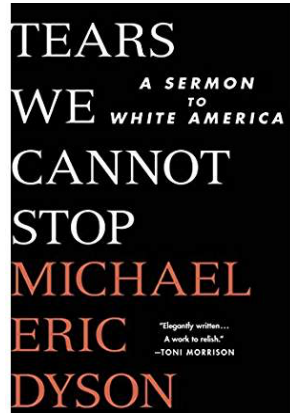
His survival depended, and his development depends, on his ability to turn his peculiar status in the Western world to his own advantage and, it may be, to the very great advantage of the world. It remains for him to fashion out of his experience that which will give him sustenance, and a voice. (p. 88)



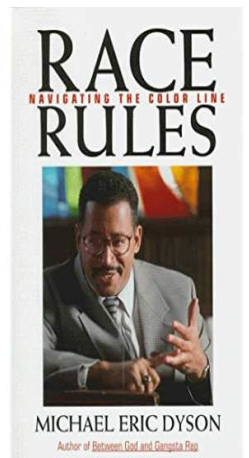
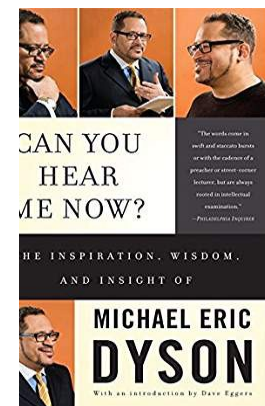
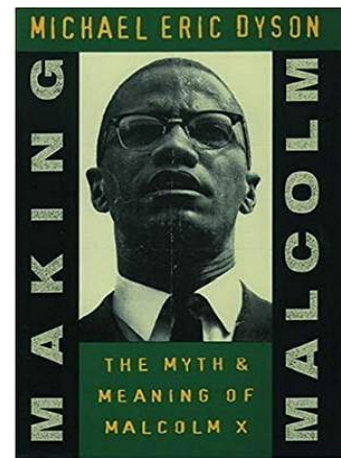
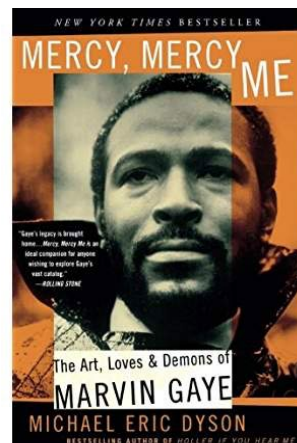
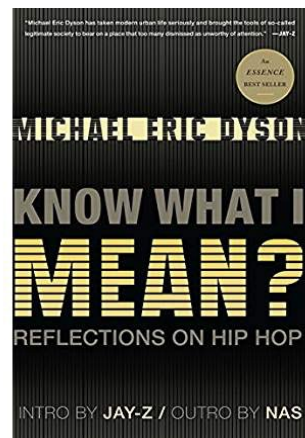
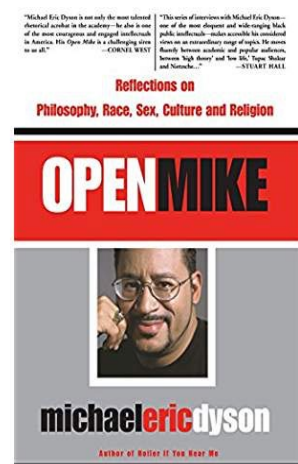
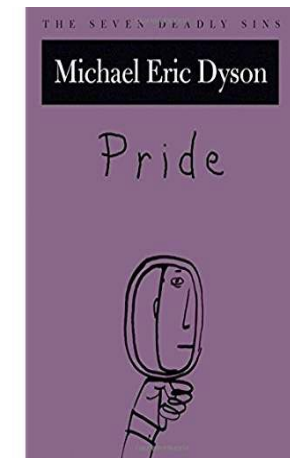
The churchmen who felt they had an edict from God to withstand the progress of science, whether in the form of a Copernican revolution or a Darwinian theory of natural selection, were not mischievous men but misinformed men. (p. 43)



1. What is the model of a highly literate student?
2. What is true literacy?
3. How do we know when we got it right?
4. How do students represent our literacy offerings?
5. **What does it take to move students toward advanced reading, writing, and intellectual development?**



READING NAS'S ILLMATIC



MICHAEL ERIC DYSON KNOW WHAT I



REFLECTIONS ON HIP HOP

INTRO BY JAY-Z

OUTRO BY NAS

Track 2.

“THIS DARK DICTION HAS BECOME AMERICA’S ADDICTION”

CREDITS

Guest Artist: Meta DuEwa Jones

Label: University of Texas at Austin

Studio Location: Austin and Philadelphia

Year Recorded: 2006

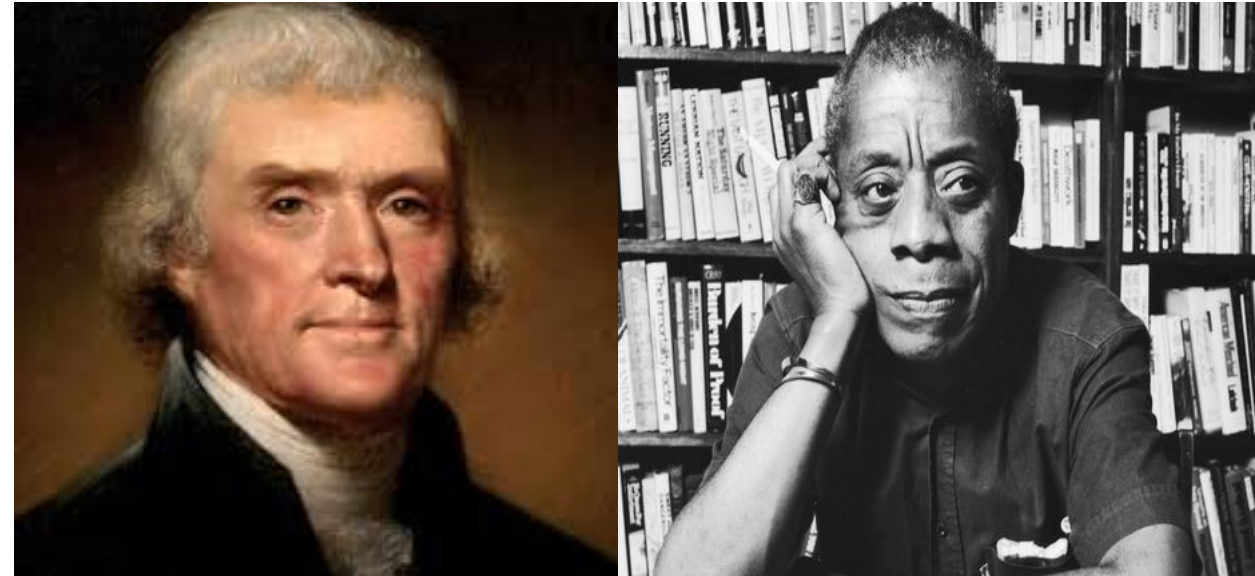
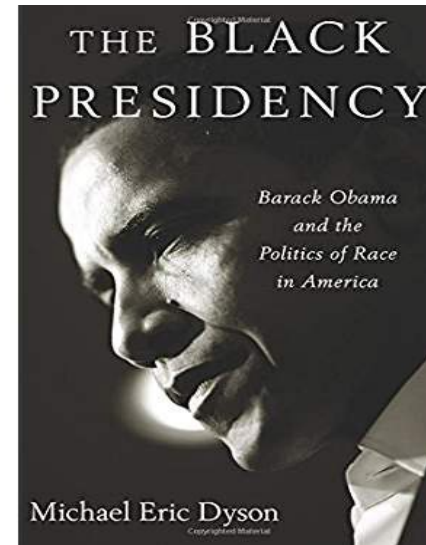
Samples: Jacques Derrida, Peter Linebaugh, Amilcar Cabral, Avery Johnson, Paul Gilroy, Nas, Jay Z, Kanye West, Earl Graves, Ralph Waldo Emerson

Shout Outs: Rhetorical Genius, The Projects, The Black Diaspora, The Black Atlantic, Global Influence of Hip Hop, Blood Diamonds

Textual Literacy Frames

From Black Presidency

A **black presidency (politics)** is undeniably **interracial (sociology)** in the same way that Obama's body is composed of black and white genes **(science)**. Obama's presidency is the **symbolic love child (metaphor)** of *Notes on the State of Virginia (Reading 1)* and *The Fire Next Time (Reading 2)*. Thomas Jefferson and James Baldwin gaze at us from immortal perches **separated by two centuries. (history)** (54 words)



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A persistent civil war rages within all of our lives. Something within causes us to lament **Ovid, the Latin Poet**, “I see and approve the better things, but follow the worse,’ or to agree **with Plato** that human personality is like a charioteer having two headstrong horses, each wanting to go in a different direction, or to repeat with the **Apostle Paul**, “The good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” (p. 51)
(80 words)

What will it take to have students write a paragraph similar to the one above?

What do you know about the author’s relationship with texts from this paragraph? His knowledge? His reading? His vocabulary?

Why do you think he wrote this paragraph? To what end was he striving?

Assessing the Writing

Student: Name

Writing Artifact: 1.

Date: June 28, 2018

Cite: Ovid, Plato, Apostle Paul

Disciplines: Literature, Philosophy, Religion

Specific Topics: human personality

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“It will take my boys a hundred years to read and write the way you are talking about.”



Immediately recognizable are the **flags of the two countries**. The U.S. flag is impersonally placed in the upper right hand corner of the painting, **partially obscured by the smoke emitted from the Ford factory plant**. The Mexican flag, however, Kahlo holds in her hand as she stands directly on a cement block that one can assume is the **“Borderline” referenced in the title of the work**. Kahlo’s placement of the Mexican flag, which is physically connected and in close proximity in front of her, symbolizes her personal connection to her home country. Kahlo’s back is facing the United States flag, and its distance from her seems to indicate – **regardless of standing directly on the border – how far detached she is from the country it represents.** (130 words)

Who Are You?

I am a person who has based his life off of flaws **thinking less of myself and not showing strength for myself.**

My agenda is to do what I know is right for myself.

What is Your Agenda?

I am a black male that's lost, somebody that feels like i have to prove myself in order to be noticed. **I am a waste of time because, if nobody's going to give me a fair opportunity to succeed then what's the point. I am pain because, if that's all your used to feeling in your life you become it.**

My agenda is to make a list full of long- and short-time goals and start crossing things off the list. My agenda is to be a better father and make something of myself, also i plan on being a better role model to my brothers and sisters. My agenda is to become different from my environment **and become my own man.**

Fearing the Amygdala

You're more capable of good decision making, and other times your neutral parliament will come out with a vote you later regret. It's because the outcome depends on many changing factors about the state of your body, states which can change hour to hour. **Research revealed that there was increased amygdala activation in subjects who viewed faces with more pronounced Afrocentric facial features. The amygdala activation was highest for the African American male face with the Afrocentric features. In addition to stronger amygdala activation for African American faces, studies also demonstrate a stronger insula reaction among some Caucasian people for African American faces.** In the study, the subjects viewed faces of African Americans and Caucasians while undergoing fMRI scans. The insula reaction was significant when the subjects saw the faces of individuals from a different race. Criminal law scholars and economists have cited revulsion as a component of the motivation for incapacitation. If the **revulsion reaction is potentiated by race, the African American defendant may receive a longer term in prison.**

BLACK THEOLOGY

James cone talks about self-determination and self-identity I feel like the meaning of this quote is that for yourself to succeed and surpass negativity in life that other's may throw at you self-determination is something you have to and want for yourself and the type of life you have in mind such as being successful you got to want to be successful in life and you got to go out there and get it you can't sit around and hope it comes to your front door step you have to work for it you have to feel good about yourself and have a good working ethic self-determination...

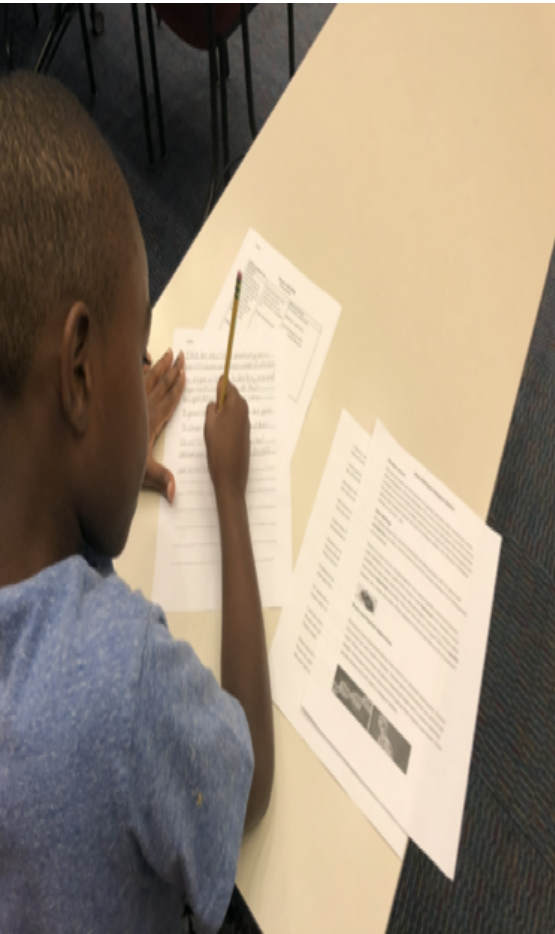
James cone is right that "As long as man is slave to another power, he is not free to serve god with mature responsibility, he is not free to become what he is-human"

I agree with James cone "we must seek to destroy everything that goes against our humanity" this means that we have to destroy all of our negative thoughts in life that goes against our self-conscience but it also takes for yourself to believe that in yourself also you can't just think it you really gotta have a meaning towards it.

I take it for granted that students will read and write well.

I also take it for granted that they want to read and write with levels of sophistication that offer profiles of their identities, questions, challenges, and intelligence.





Day 4

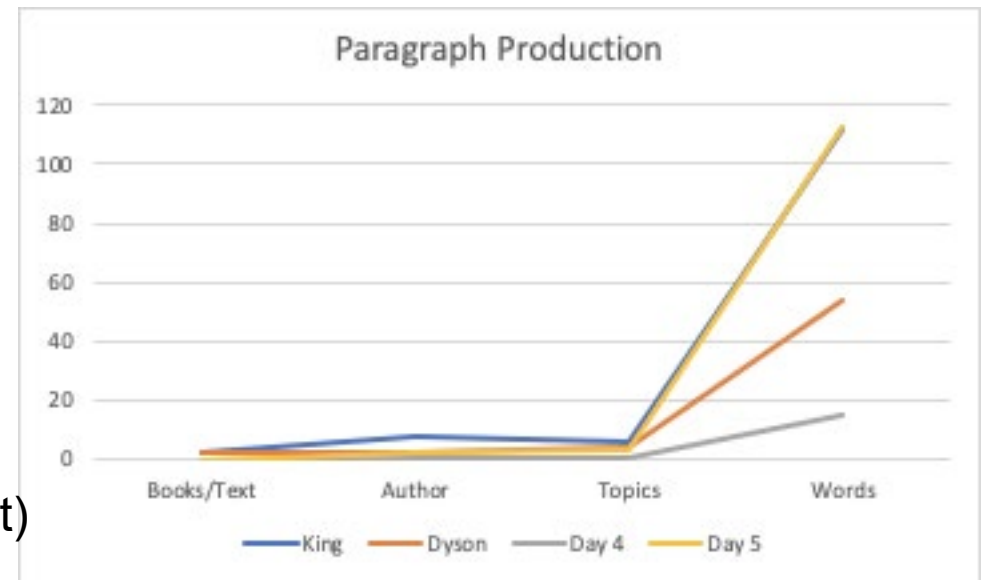
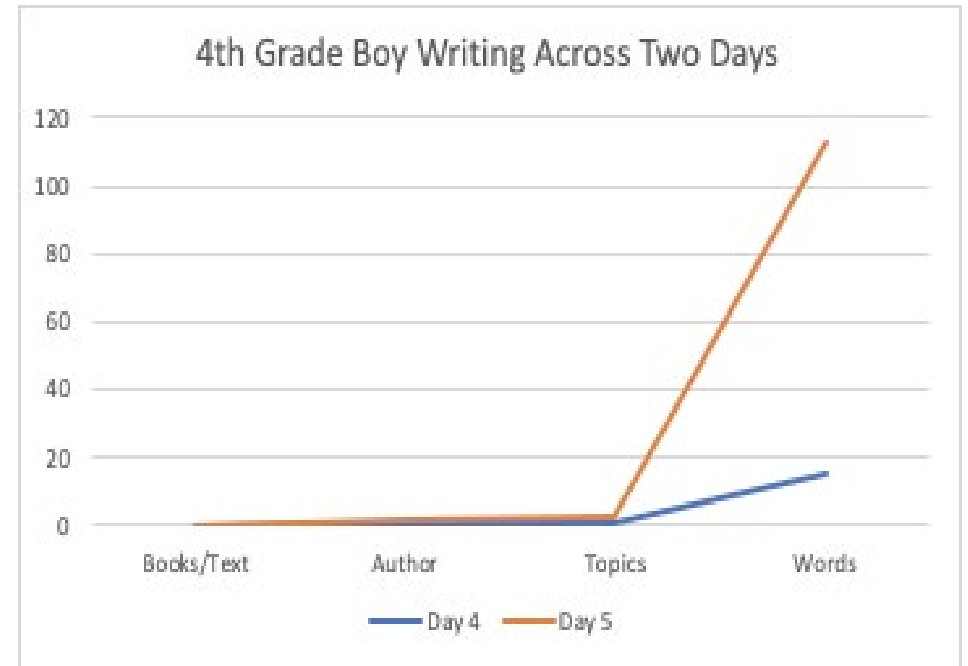
Child labor is not good. Children should have pens in their hands not tools. Iqbal

Day 5

Designer babies are a new discovery. Hideo Kojima said, genetic engineering is a result of science advancement, so I don't think that itself is bad. If used wisely, genetics can be beneficial, but they can be abused, too. Roger said, I think ethics and morals of genetic engineering are very complicated, it intrigues me I agree with both Hideo Kojima and Roger Spottiswoode. I think that designer genes are an ansome idea. 5 genes can change your nose. 20 genes to shape height and weight. I learned the scientists have discovered genes that control our physical appearance. Doctor can screen for sex (male or female). Certain gene combinations can predict eye color.

“It will take our boys **three years** to read and write the way you are talking about.”

...by **June 2023**, as measured by FAST (goals of one school district)

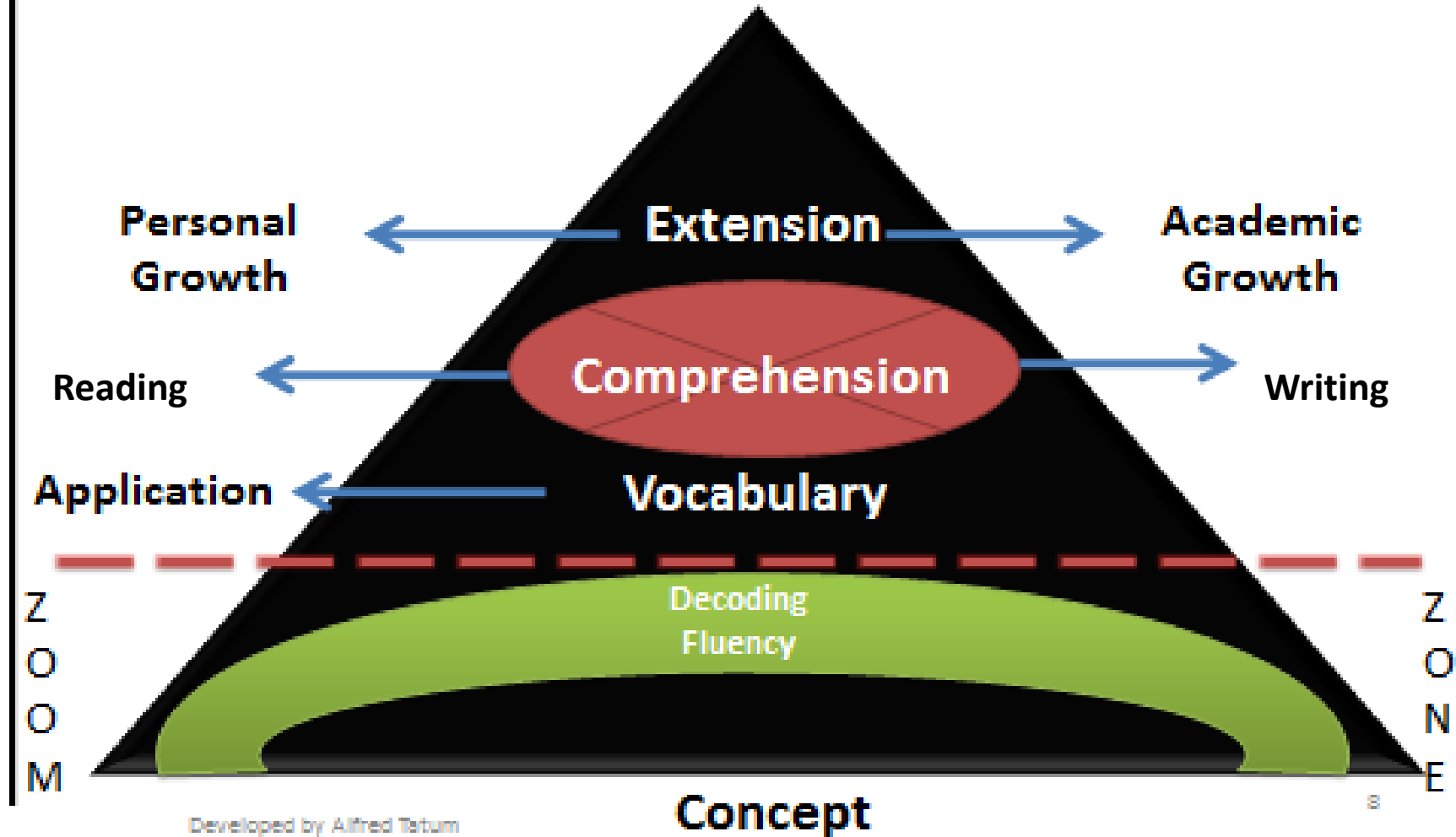


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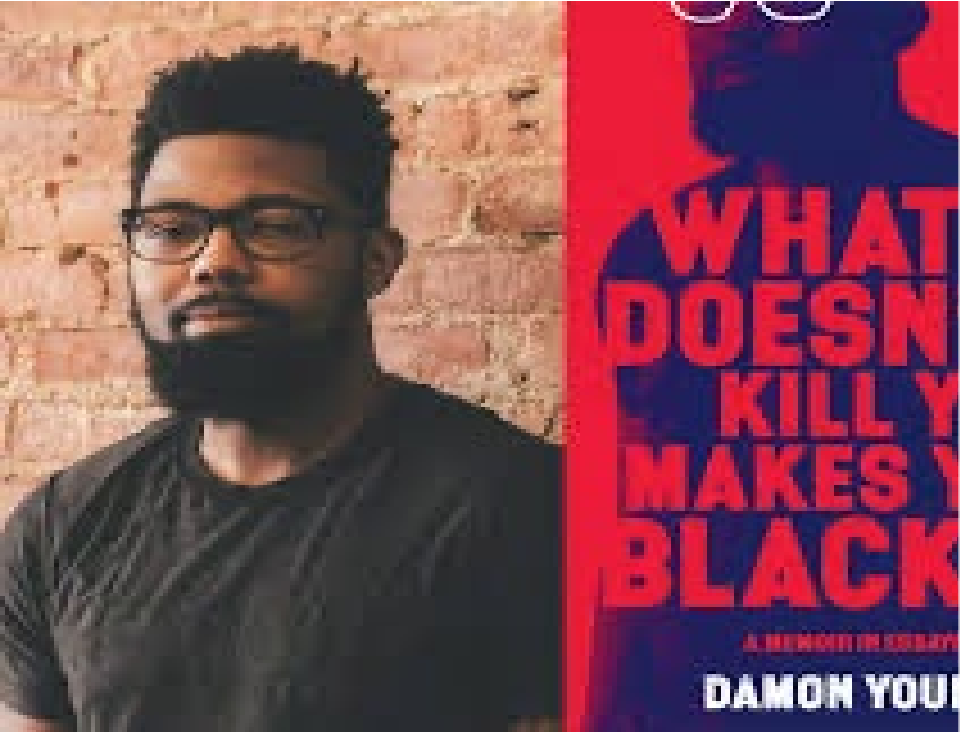
I also take it for granted that they want to read and write with levels of sophistication that offer profiles of their identities, questions, challenges, and intelligence.

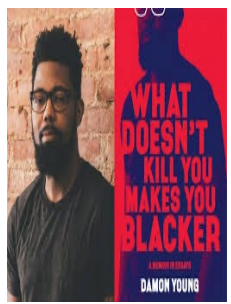


Multi-Dimensional Reading Model



Black Women, Science, and Humanity





Text 1: *Living While Black Killed My Mom* – Excerpts from an essay by Damon Young

Excerpt 1

In both East Harlem, New York, and Columbia, South Carolina, today stand statues of iconic doctor James Marion Sims, known as the “father of modern gynecology.” Sims is most famous for inventing the speculum and finding a cure for vesicovaginal fistula – landmark discoveries he made after hundreds of experiments on purchased and borrowed black female slaves. And since Sims either believed black women were unable to experience pain or just didn’t care about it, local anesthesia was never used. He ripped these women open – gashing their vaginas like old newspaper torn and twisted to light charcoal grills – and he has *monuments*.

While this particular kind of gynecological terror no longer exists in America, the feeling behind it and the effects of it still linger. In April 2018, the *New York Times* published an extensive feature on black maternal mortality, revealing that black women are four times more likely to die from childbirth than white women are. Four times. A University of Virginia study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences* showed that doctors, in 2016, still believed black people possess a supernatural tolerance for pain. Our pain just doesn’t matter as much because our humanity doesn’t either. (pp. 243-244) (204 words)

Excerpt 2

I think about how she just gave gave gave gave gave gave because life took took took took took took took. I think about how I took took took took took from her. And I can’t discern if this parasitic relationship was typical – if sons take from their mothers because that’s just what we do – or if our relationship was unnaturally pathogenic. I think about how neither of those options is good. I think about how black women are socialized to be enduring and steadfast and forgiving and giving giving giving so much that there’s nothing left of them but dust. I think about how this dynamic exists both within America’s white dominating culture and in black American culture. I think about how its existence in black American culture is perhaps even more hurtful and dispiriting, because there’s no deliverance from it in what should be your home and your people. I think about how black women are praised for their strength the way you’d praise a mule or a swarm of ants or a handshake or a really expensive garbage bag. I think about how praise of black women reads like a word association game where someone just placed strength in a thesaurus and found the synonyms. Black women are stout. Black women are unyielding. Black women are stable. Black women are durable. Black women are stalwart. Black women are firm. Black women are poised. Black women are reliable. Black women have grace too. But grace is just another way of praising them for being strong for everyone else while also juggling and then ignoring the urge to firebomb the entire planet. (275 words) (pp. 245-246)



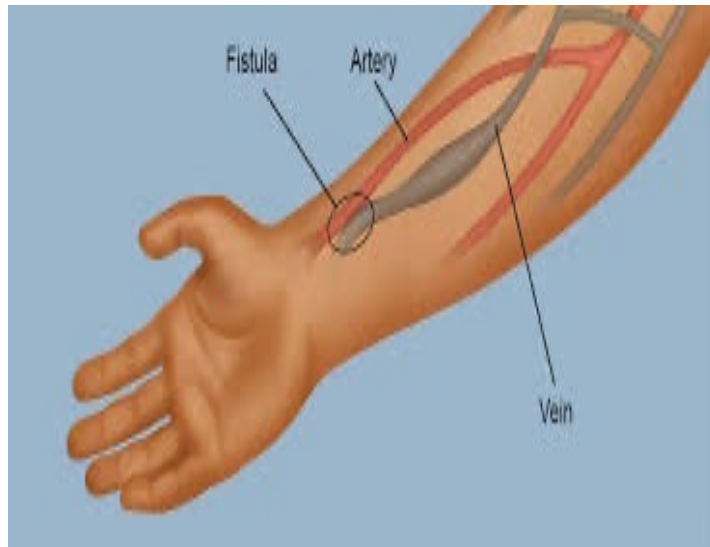
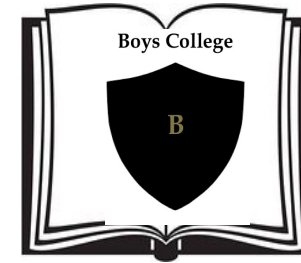
Text 2: From: WHY NEW YORK MUST REMOVE DR. JAMES MARION SIMS' STATUE: SLAVERY, RACISM AND AMERICAN MEDICINE MOHAMMED NURHUSSEIN SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

By far the worst offender in the long line of heinous crimes committed by doctors in the name of science using Blacks as their guinea pigs is Dr. James Marion Sims. Marion Sims early in his career had an interest in neo natal tetanus which he attributed to the ignorance of the mothers and Black midwives who attended them believing "enslaved Africans to be intellectually and morally inferior". He also believed the skull bone movements during birth to be contributory and used shoemaker’s awl to pry the skull into shape. Death rate was 100%. He performed autopsies on these bodies. None of these were consented to by the mothers. Image of showmaker’s awl



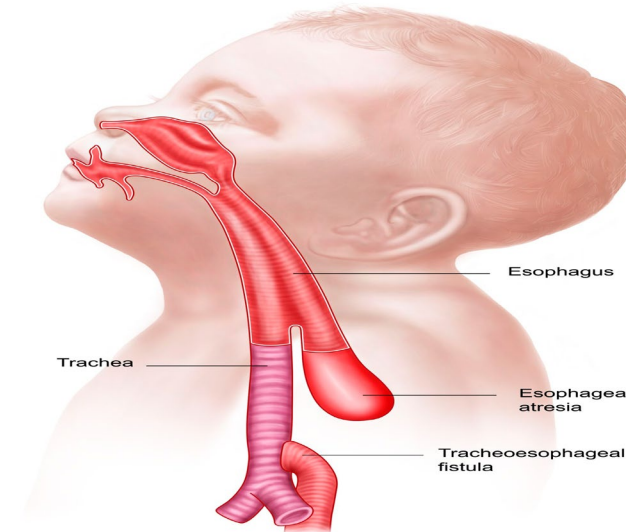
It is later in his career however that his demonic experiments were carried out on enslaved women. Vesico-Vaginal fistula, a catastrophic complication of childbirth leading to urine incontinence (lack of control) was a major problem in the US at the time as it is in many parts of the developing world today. Dr. Sims took 12 enslaved women for multiple surgical experiments without anesthesia (loss of sensation or pain) from 1845 to 1849. He describes his experiments on three of these women: Anarcha, Lucy and Betsey. Anarcha alone was subjected to surgical operations 30 times. The anesthetic, ether was available as early as 1842 and its usefulness was publicly demonstrated in Boston in 1846. He chose not to use ether even then. He believed like many of his contemporaries that Blacks did not feel pain. This human experiments helped him perfect surgical technique to repair fistula^[1]. He was then able to provide the service to his white patients under anesthesia. (262 words)

A **fistula** is an abnormal connection between two parts inside of the body.



This is an example.

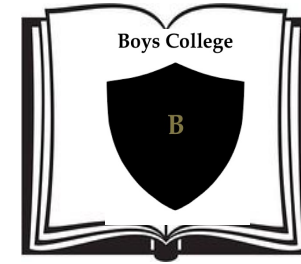
Artery and **Vein** fistula



This is an example.

Esophagus and **windpipe**
fistula

FLUENCY PRACTICE



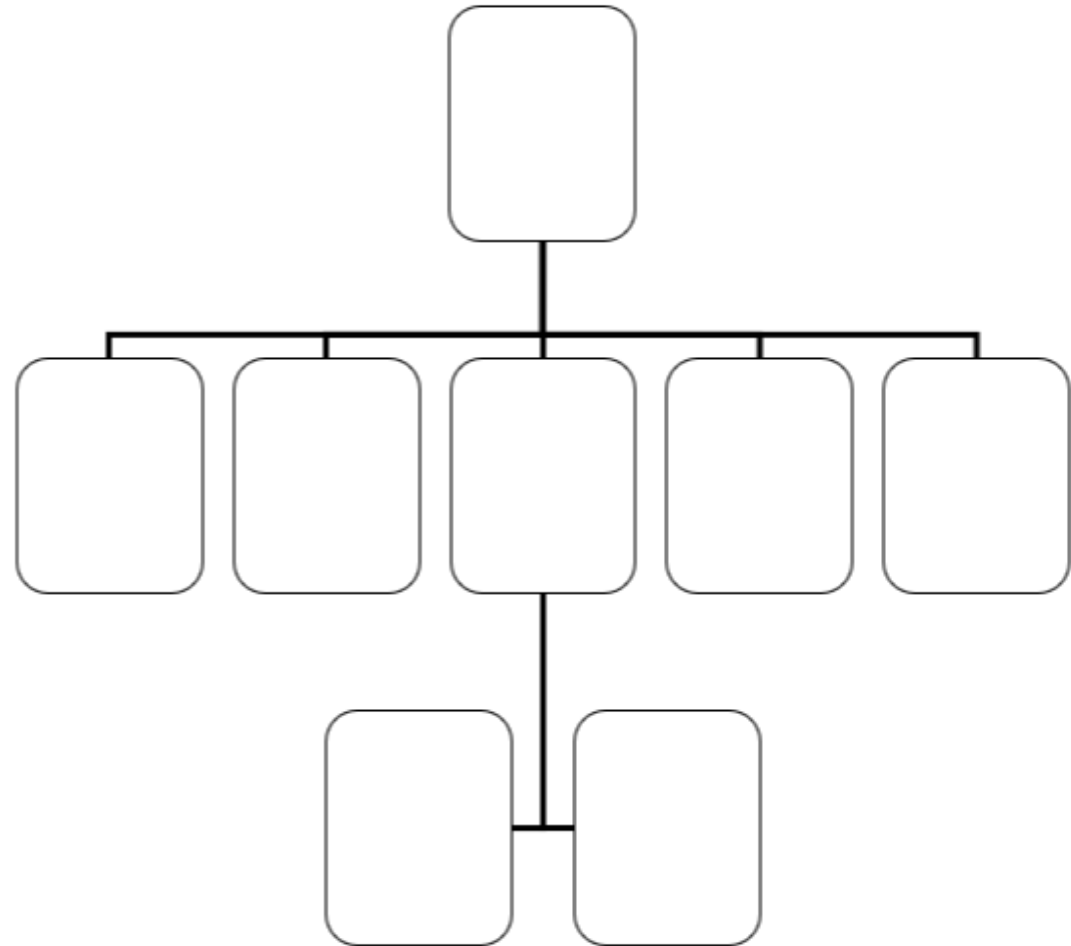
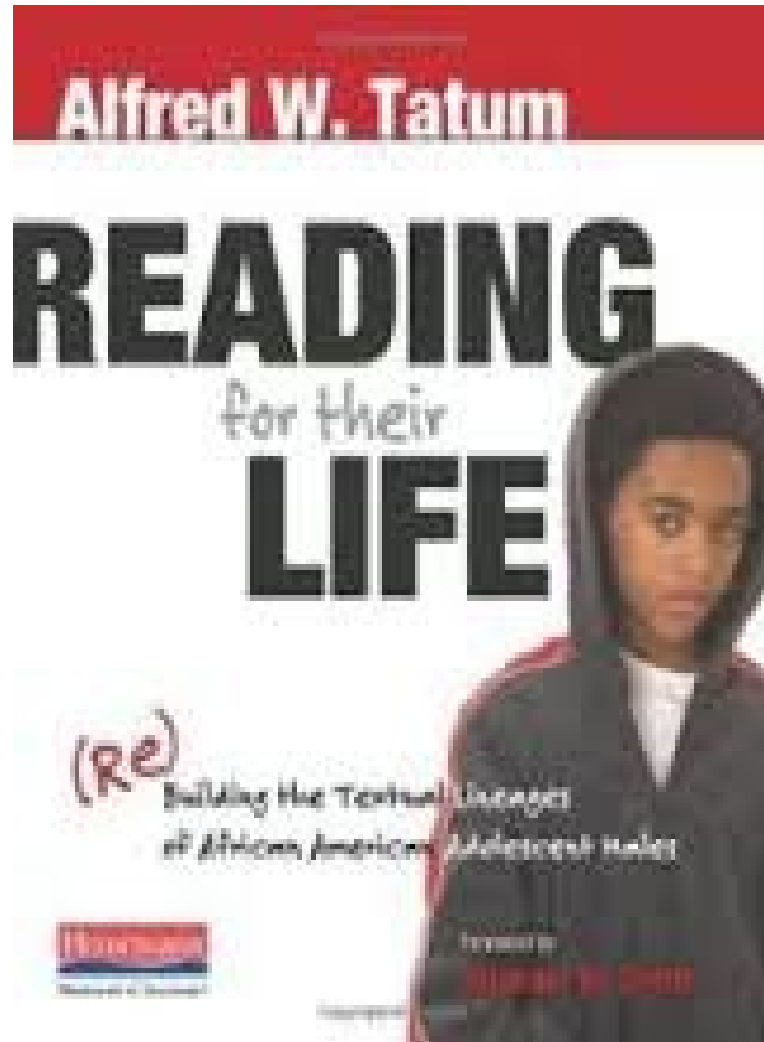
Practice reading the text below with a partner. The goal is to reading the text with 100% accuracy. The words in **bold** are from **A,E,I,O,U 1,2 List**

Partner Practice

While this particular kind of **gynecological** terror no longer exists in America, the feeling behind it and the effects of it still linger. In April 2018, the *New York Times* published an extensive feature on black **maternal** mortality, revealing that black women are four times more likely to die from childbirth than white women are. Four times. A University of Virginia study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences* showed that doctors, in 2016, still believed black people possess a supernatural tolerance for pain. Our pain just doesn't matter as much because our humanity doesn't either.

The Severing of Reading & Writing Lineages

One of the Great Tragedies of American Education



My Textual “Sociological” Lineage

Reading

Shakespeare

Macbeth

Edith Hamilton

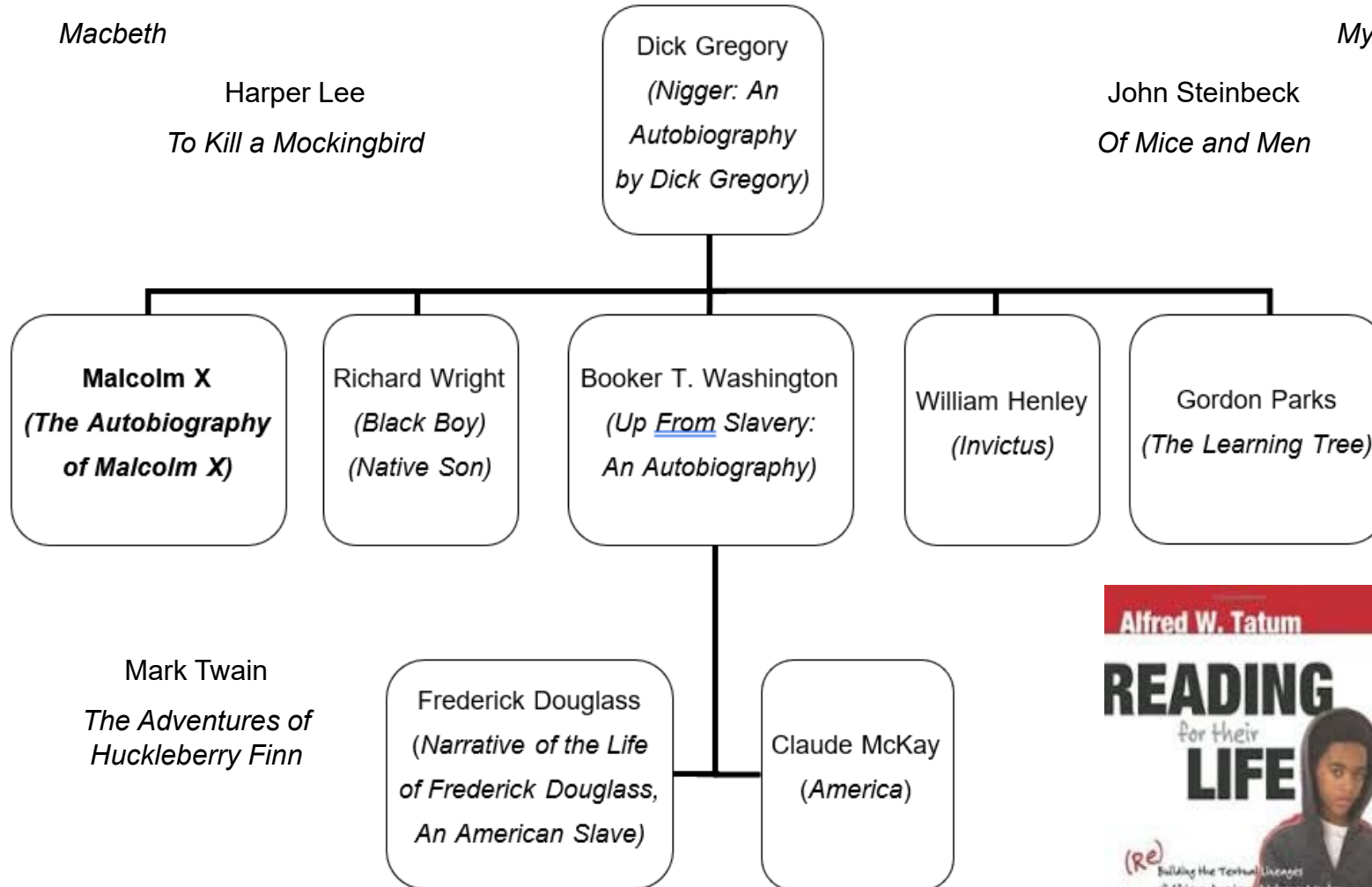
Mythology

Harper Lee

To Kill a Mockingbird

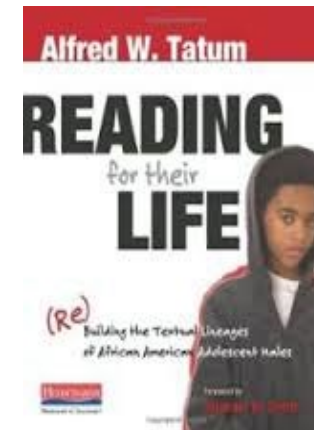
John Steinbeck

Of Mice and Men



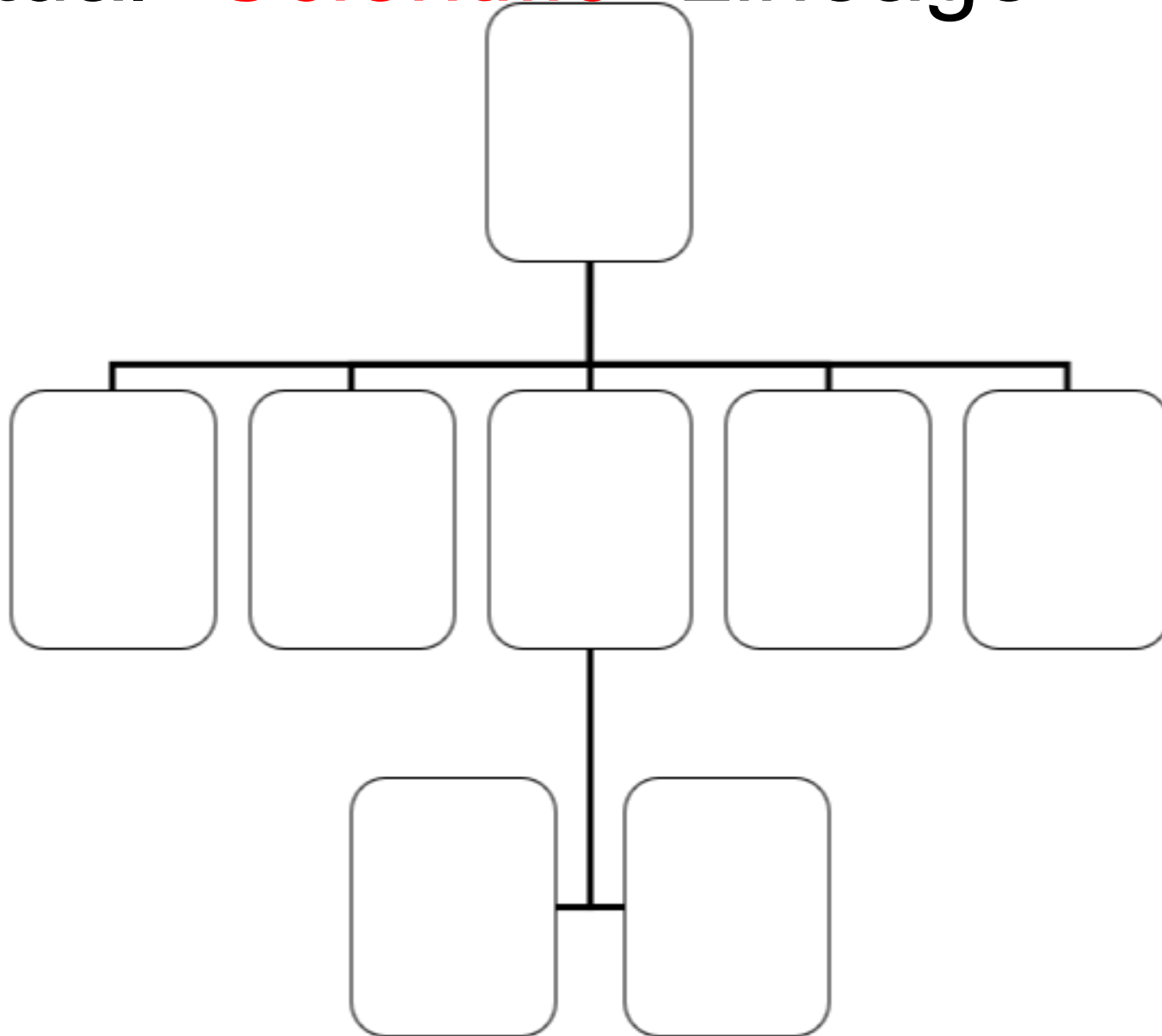
Mark Twain

*The Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn*



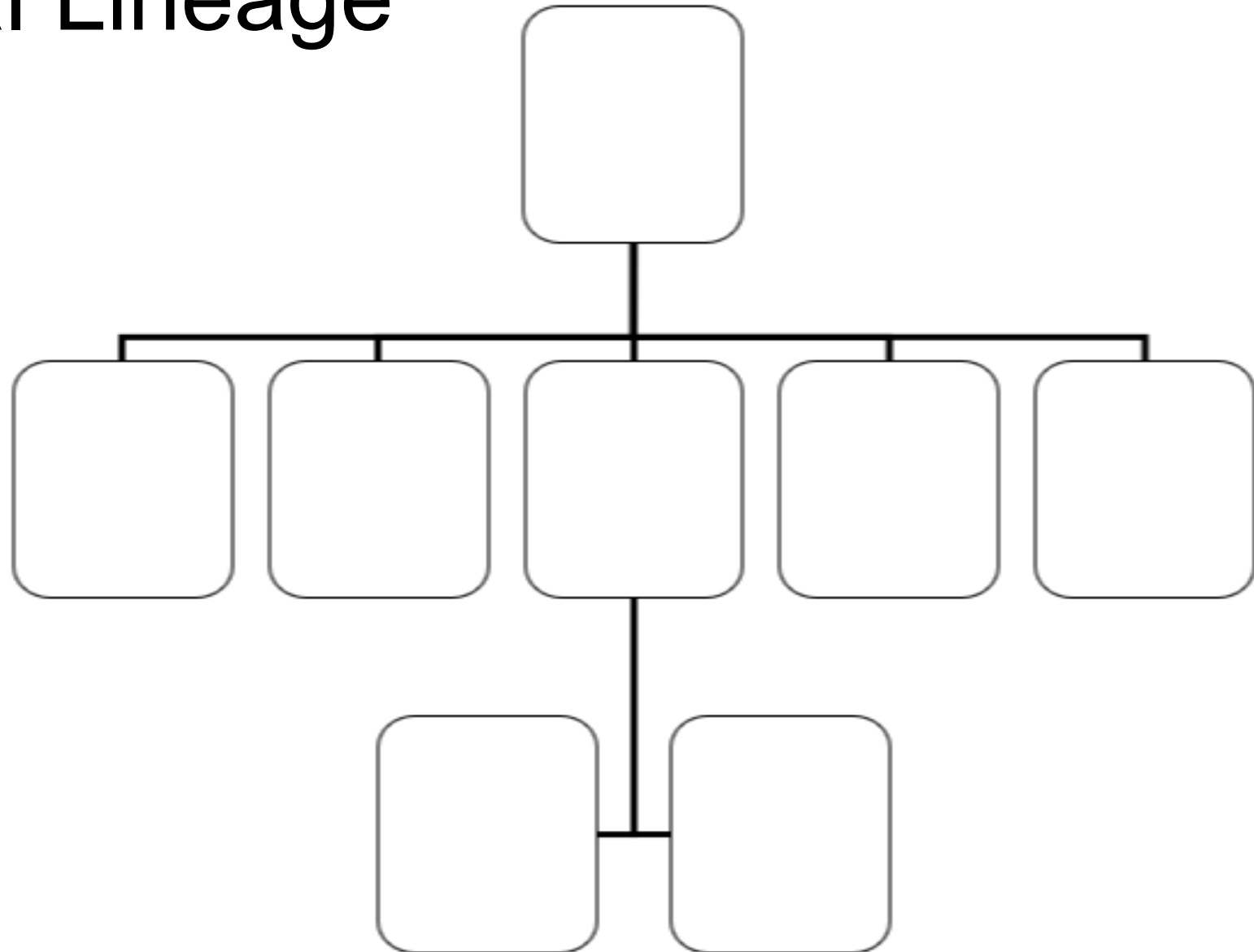
My Textual “Scientific” Lineage

Reading



My Textual Lineage

Writing



Powerful texts in tandem with powerful reading and *writing instruction* can have a significant influence on the lives of all students.

Powerful texts can also light the way for educators to move students to advanced levels of literacy and away from “branded Inferiority.” Texts can also restore confidence in literacy instruction.

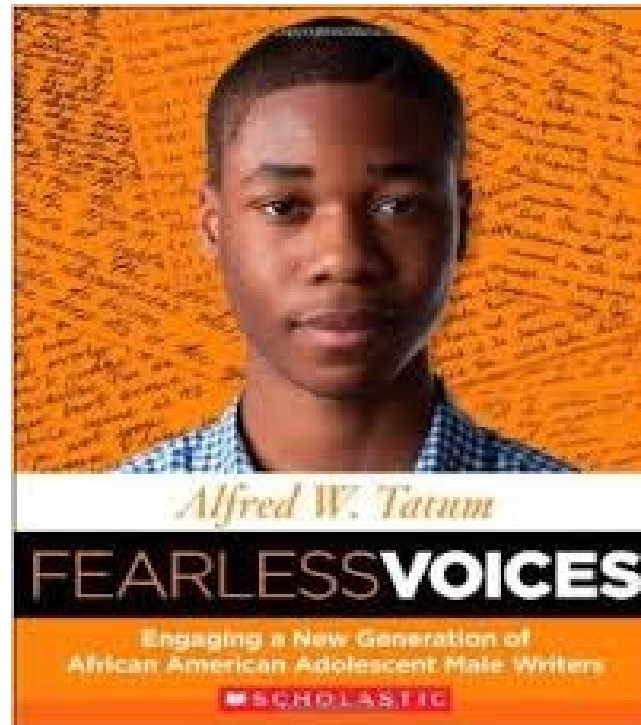
Advanced Literacy

- Read texts that span the social sciences and physical sciences.
- Increase the daily volume of texts read by students.
- Build textual lineages.
- Create outlets and environments for students to share texts in writing.
- Engage students in literacy collaboratives with cause-based readings



LITEARCY COLLABORATIVE

Literacy instruction has to be wide enough and deep enough to counter an historical ugliness rooted in multiple forms of exploitation that has manifested into academic underperformance, social unrest, and personal and social suffocating for many students. Literacy also has to be wide enough to break new ground and fashion new imaginations and new realities. (Tatum, 2009)



1. What is the model of a literate kid? literate adult?
 1. Embraces/Engages in a harsh schedule of reading, writing, and thinking
2. What is true literacy?
 1. Leads to knowledge development
 2. Leads to grappling
3. How do we know when we got it right?
 1. Students become, do, and think differently as a result of their reading and writing
 2. Intellectual development and personal development
4. How do students represent our literacy offerings?
 1. In a variety of ways
 2. High academic performance
 3. Exercised humanity
5. What does it take to move students toward advanced reading, writing, and intellectual development?
 1. Powerful instruction
 2. Powerful texts
 3. Strong conceptualization



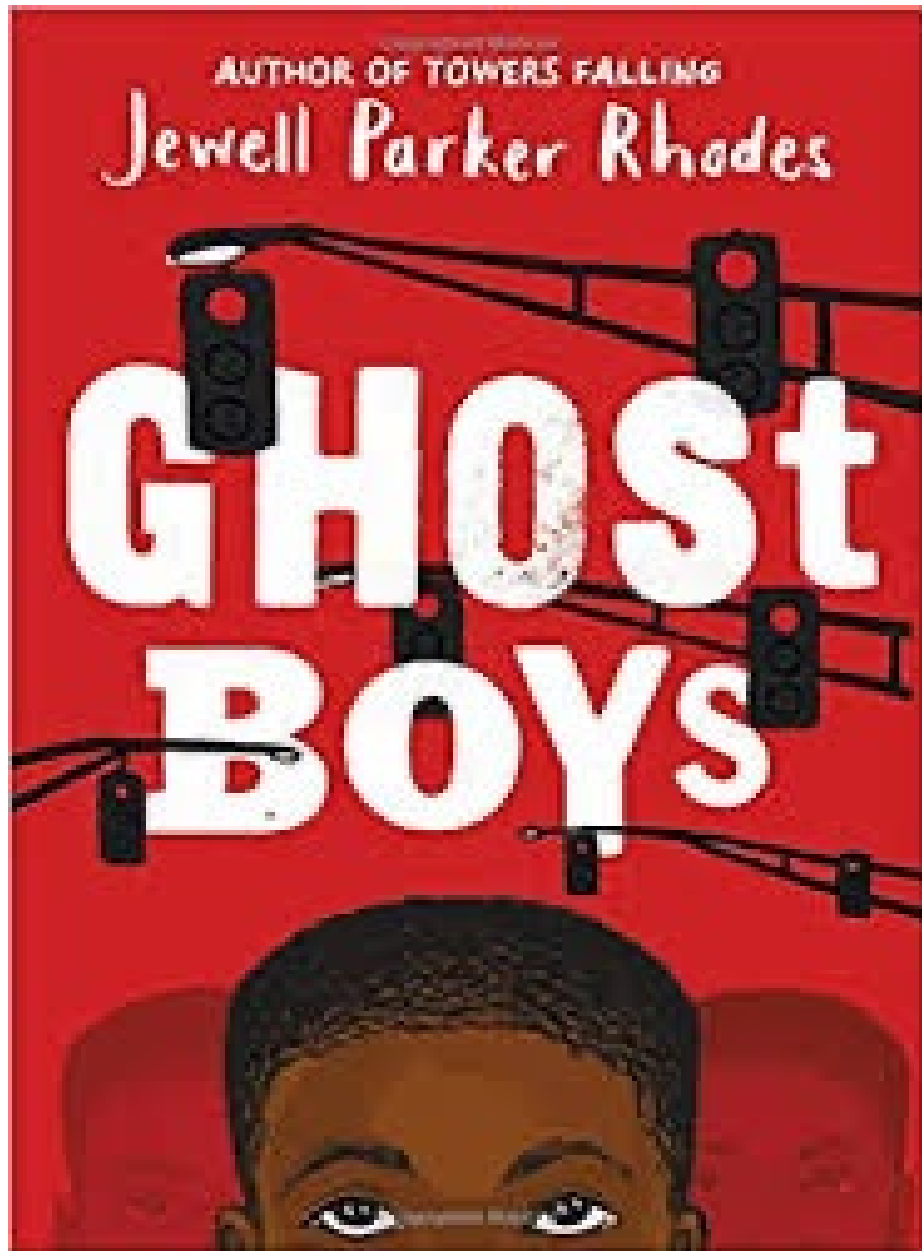
Resolutions

1. Be it resolved – we will build students’ reading and writing lineages across the disciplines
2. Be it resolved – we will develop a stronger, better-defined literacy movement
3. Be it resolved – we will moved beyond narrow frames of scholarship (**Audit the research or create research platforms**)
4. Be it resolved – we will seek to destroy everything that goes against our humanity





“A black boy don’t get a hundred chances to get it right. Sometimes he just gets one. That’s it. ... “You blow your chance, you blow your life.”



I'm still dead...

Doesn't seem fair. Nobody ever paid me attention.

I skated by. Kept my head low.

Now I'm famous. (P. 4)

It's not just about
students'
literacies; it's
about their lives.

Tatum, 2005