

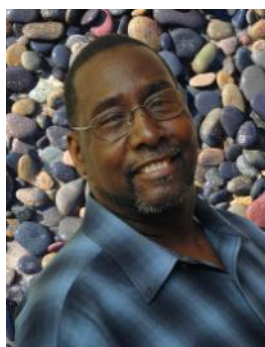
# ODYSSEY ORACLE

## CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2013!

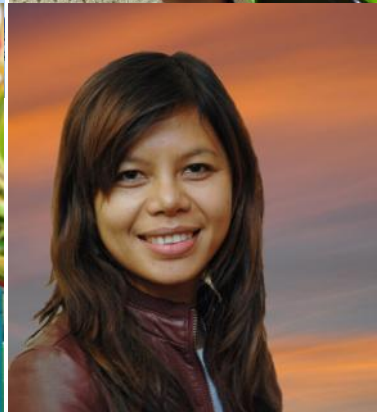
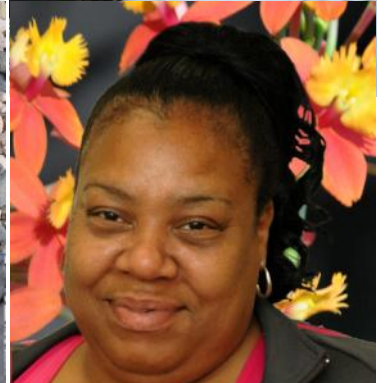
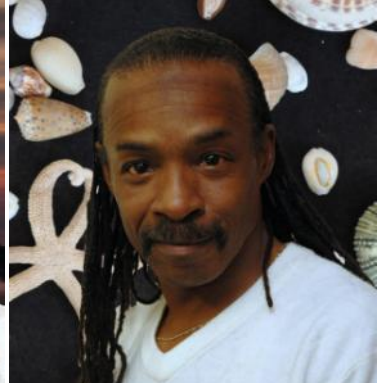


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# LETTERS TO THE CLASS OF 2014

Hello, Odyssey Class of 2014,

It is a great pleasure to write this letter. I hope you all love this class as much as I do/did, if not more.

This was one of the best years of my life. We all met great people inside of class and outside of it as well, from an actor named Baron Kelly to Maxine Gordon, the widow of legendary jazz trumpeter Dexter Gordon. We went to events like football and basketball games, operas and orchestras. Listen and pay attention to everything that comes across in class. It is all valuable information.

The love we all shared is like having a family that's from different families. Trust me: every last one of them will become yours, and the classes of years prior will be part of your Odyssey community, too. **(Lewis Black)**

Do your BEST no matter what level that is! Take the time to smell the roses. Out of all of the applicants, you were selected to sit at this famous table of thirty. Make it count. Use it as a stepping stone to greatness! **(Jasmine Banks)**

The Odyssey class is the coolest and most unique class I have ever been to. You will have a lot of different thoughts in every class and in every week. Please trust me: in the next week, you'll get a new thought.

So remember: every class is leading you to your success, to open doors for your life. By the end



of this class, you'll have satisfied and complete thoughts and feelings. This is the best feeling ever, I'm telling you! Good luck and keep moving forward. **(Tanatnan Chaipang)**

Welcome to your journey. Be proud of yourself, for you have taken a step that most people don't. You will be amazed at your growth this year. As we all know, things and the world around us continue to



go 'round, and there may be roadblocks or delays. Just know that there is always someone, especially Emily, who will be more than willing to help you along the way. At times you may get discouraged, but push forward, for it will be worth it in the end. Remember your future is worth it. **(Patrice Smith)**

Congratulations and welcome aboard the Odyssey class. Now you are part of this amazing project where the staff will support you in many ways. For example, tutors will be available to help you with writing, reading, and homework. I am sure you will not be disappointed because you are going in the right direction. Emily is a great professor, and she is always available to help with all academic material; therefore, you will find a short note in each assignment: "Call ... if stuck." So you will not be alone throughout the two semesters.

I never let the obstacles and barriers defeat my dreams. For that reason, I believe it is never too late to go back to school; thus, continuing to pursue my dreams is a part of my personal goal. My advice to you is never give up on your dreams. Over all, I hope you learn as much as you can throughout the two semesters. **(Angelica Cuahuey)**

I want to welcome you by saying congratulations, Class of 2013-2014. I know you might be nervous and excited. This class is a very good learning experience while you are on your journey to better your education.

If at times you think things get rough, don't quit. Anyway, Emily won't let you. How do I know? I experienced difficulties when I was in 2012-2013, but I'm glad I stayed in class so that I could continue my education. Most of all, I want to lead my family and show my kids you can do anything you want if you put your mind to it. **(Tracey Cherry)**

Be afraid, but not discouraged. Class assignments, discussions, and the rat race in the unfair game of life may make you overwhelmed. This is a trap you'll know all too well, but this time you can have the tools available to avoid such pitfalls.

I suggest you attend every class, homework complete or not, LISTEN attentively, reread the week's lesson to keep it fresh in your mind, and read anything and everything you can get your hands on.

When that seed of doubt keeps trying to plant itself in your brain and its next door neighbor named procrastination comes knocking, turn around, take a deep breath, and focus on your short-term goals. Remember, you were chosen for this program for a reason. Professor Emily saw something in you. There are a lot of people who get that phone call stating they weren't selected this time around, so don't waste time.

Do it for yourself. There's a difference between being selfish and self-preservation. You owe it to yourself to be the best person with the most knowledge you can get. No excuses. Not anymore. It's your move now. Make it count.

**(China Moon Crowell)**





Don't be scared! Sit back and enjoy this Odyssey Ride. Come to class prepared to listen and ready to learn. It's going to seem hard in the beginning, but it will get better because you will notice that everyone's here for the same reasons. You will feel a sense of worth and will find your place. Everything you thought you couldn't do you will be doing. So sit back and enjoy the Odyssey Ride. (El-Rasheedah Wilson)

I'm writing you to inform you that you are in for the experience of a lifetime. All the things that have held you back before are gone. This is a new start towards your bright future ahead. Professor Emily chose you for a reason. I believe she saw something in you that you may not even know existed, or the true potential you have inside of you. The 30 students you meet on the first day of class will become friends for a lifetime. I'm sure you'll learn as much from them as they'll learn from you. It's your time to shine. Congratulations! Good luck! You are blessed. (**Sharisse Hancock**)

Welcome to the Odyssey Class of 2013-2014. This is a wonderful journey and opportunity for life changing. Most of the people have been changed by this class in a good way. You are a part of something bigger than you think.

During this journey you will doubt yourself, find strength you didn't know you had, and use parts of your mind, heart, and soul that you may have wanted to forget or didn't know were there. Please don't give up, no matter how hard the obstacles are, but aim higher in everything you do. I wish you all the best throughout the journey. (**Nancy Wambua**)

This letter is to all thirty of the Odyssey Project Class of 2014. I want you to know that this class will change your life. You're coming to a class where you are in a family setting. The Odyssey Project family is your family for life. This is the first day of your Odyssey Wednesday Night Delight. Enjoy each time you meet at the South Madison Library for Odyssey class. Please open up and enjoy learning about some great people. There will be literature classes about William Blake, Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, and women writers like Toni Morrison. I know you will love Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and the art history tour of the Chazen Museum of Art. (**Jovenus Price Pierce**)

You don't know me yet but you will. I am your sister and I travel with you on your Odyssey, just as the brothers and sisters before me did on mine. Set for yourself a goal and then strive for it. Let it be known that the goal you have set for yourself has begun to unfold, and let it be your story told in a way that only you can. We are all with you and within your reach. That's what sisters and brothers do: teach. So as you embark on your Odyssey, know that like a dream it is attainable. (**Michelle Whitman**)

Congratulations on being accepted into the Odyssey Project! I'm sure when you got that call from Emily, you were so happy and excited. Odyssey is a journey that will take you to a place you won't ever want to leave. This course will change your life and should motivate you to fulfill your dreams. It won't be easy, but I will stress this to you, and that is not to quit. Press forward because you can do anything you put your mind to. Again, congratulations and enjoy the ride on this fantastic voyage to knowledge. **(Dominique Haskins)**



I want to welcome you to the first day of a very new and unfamiliar beginning.

My first day of the Odyssey Project, I was nervous and a little scared because I had no idea what would come next. As I learned what we would be doing in the class, I got down right intimidated. But you are here for a reason—because you wanted to be. Enjoy the ride because it goes quickly.

The people in my class and the wonderful professors that take the time to come in and teaching you things are irreplaceable. Times will get tough, whether it be a personal crisis or just being overwhelmed by classwork. Keep moving forward. Show up and learn. I can tell you this class will take you places you'd never thought you'd go. I wish you luck on your odyssey. **(Mary Millon)**

Keep pushing no matter how tough things get. This class will definitely be a turning point in your life. It seems whenever you try to do good in life and make changes for the better, that's when the Devil tries to put every obstacle that he can in your path to make things difficult. Class of 2014, I would like for you to know that things will get tough and obstacles will arise, but giving up is too easy. So keep pushing. Open up your mind and absorb all the teachings that you are about to receive. From Socrates to Dr. Martin Luther King, everything you receive will be life altering. **(Fantasia House)**

Be proud to be part of Odyssey. In Odyssey you grow intellectually. You learn about diversity and different cultures. You also learn about people around you and how to be respectful.



In the Odyssey program you find yourself in a family-like class with great teachers who are always there to help you with your problems. If not, they will show you where to go or who to talk to. The only thing you will have to pay back is to work hard and never give up. If you are worried about where to keep your kids, don't be because Odyssey will provide a safe childcare for you.

Odyssey will be a part of your life forever. Welcome to Odyssey! **(Jovite Rayaisse)**



Hear ye! Hear ye! Attention, Kings and Queens! (That means you, too!) Please pay close attention to what you're about to hear. Turn on your thinking caps. Leave your troubles at the door. Have no fear because you are so very welcome here. Odyssey is going to make you think. It will challenge you. You will have questions you need to ask. You may think you know what you know, but you will awaken and realize that you don't know everything.

You now know something new. You will be compelled to get up and do something about it. That's when your Odyssey experience will have its full completeness, when at the end you get up on that stage and know you can do what you set your mind to, making you the Kings and Queens you are meant to be. God speed! **(Carrie Llerena Sesma)**

I am so glad you made the choice to come and be interviewed and accepted into the program. Now the fun begins! You will learn and cry—a lot! You will befriend people you normally would walk past. You must first let go of judgment. The class will then be more than you dreamed! Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone because then there is much growth. You will learn there is more to you than what eyes can behold!

I am so thankful that I have met the 30 friends in class and so happy that I made the choice to better myself. If you can dream it, you can do it! Thanks to Odyssey I can and will get a degree like my children.

Have fun. **(Eunice Conley)**

This year for you is special. Why? It's special because you are at the start of something special and you don't even know it. I didn't know what I was signing up for, but now that I know, I would like to share my opinion with you about my Odyssey.

Don't be afraid to ask questions; you can do that here! I came into this class with a closed mind about slavery, racism, and poverty. Why? I had no idea of the depth of confusion that I had endured over my years of existence. I was taught to hate how my ancestors and I were treated. I was even taught to hate myself because of the paths in life that I had chosen or because of the paths that were given to me. Well, I'm proud to announce that after my Odyssey through "Allegory of the Cave," Martin Luther King, Langston Hughes, *Raisin in the Sun*, and classes from September to May, I'm learning to love again. **(LoLita Phillips)**

Today you are taking a stand. As you begin your journey, I would like you to take the time to think about where you have been and where you want to go in life. Enjoy every day you have in Odyssey because this will one day be a stepping stone. Open your mind. When times get hard, keep pushing. When you feel like giving up, stay strong. You can do the impossible. You can make a stand for your life, present and future. Keep the faith. Keep your head to the sky and your mind in the books. Good luck! **(Derrick McCann)**



This journey “Odyssey” is about you! It’s your opportunity to discover the precious gift that lies inside of you and will lead you to success.

Allow yourself to trust, believe, and honor your already acquired knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to teach and help one another grow. Be open and apply patience when things seem to be outside your grasp, for it is then—at that moment—when clarity of thought and vision will take you to the heights you are destined to reach.

Lastly, I will say to you that your pursuit of knowledge must be combined with the tools and desire to apply that knowledge. Be true to yourself! Kamia/Peace (**James Morgan**)

Welcome, Class of 2014, to the Odyssey program. This is a place where you will gain new realities and knowledge, and you will read lots of books. OK, I hope the last part did not scare you. You will actually enjoy these books! At the start, you may be nervous, like I was. But as you look around you will see others just as nervous. This is the beauty of this program: everyone will be in one accord. Now if someone is out of place, then everyone as a group will bring it all back together. There will be some challenges and downfalls within the course of your journey, but DON’T GIVE UP!

Every time you feel a little discouraged, remember what brought you here in the beginning. Remember those around you because they will become your family. You are not alone in this. Those before you and after you depend on your achievement.

I had great pleasure being a part of this program. I hope my expression through my words and stories will only help you and those in the future.



So once again: DON’T GIVE UP! This is a lifetime opportunity. Be a blessing within yourself to be a better you! You deserve greatness in your life, and the Odyssey Project is just the beginning of it. (**Britney Sinclair**)

You never know what your journey will be or how it will end up, but you have to start somewhere. If you don’t start somewhere, you can’t get anywhere. Everyone has obstacles; everyone looks at life a different way. Odyssey is a new beginning, a new journey, where you can start fresh!

I cannot say this too many times: life can bring you down. It can literally break you to pieces, and you have to continue to pick up and try again. You may be at the point where you close your eyes and feel like you can’t anymore! But when you close your eyes and you think about all the stress, pain, and hardship, open your eyes and have the persistence to move forward. Remember “you can’t get put through anything you can’t handle.” Odyssey is the best experience. They are here for you to help you grow to be better and succeed! You can be anyone you want to be. Let this be your start, here and now! Your new journey! Don’t let anyone or anything get in your way to stop you from making something new for you! Keep your head up, work hard, and NEVER GIVE UP. It’s worth it! (**Amber Turner**)







process and been chosen as one of the thirty students in this class.

As you probably know, you are in for the experience of your life. This experience will change you from who and what you are. I'm not going to tell exactly what that change is, but I will say this: if you push yourself hard to do better than you've ever done, you will experience you in a way that is totally unique.

I speak for the whole Odyssey family (and believe we are a family) when I say welcome. I'll see you one of these

What a ride I just took on the Odyssey express! One day I realized that I was locked in a cave. In that cave, it was dark, empty of life and movement. I was shackled from neck down, naked, cold, and lost. I just sat there and sat there doing nothing about it. Then one day the shackles came off and I was free. I stepped out on an unfamiliar path named Odyssey.

As I walked, I met a lot of others—some I met in physical form and some I was read to, such as William Blake, William Wordsworth, Robert Browning, William Shakespeare, August Wilson, Frederick Douglass, Martin Luther King, Thomas Jefferson, and many more. They took me on a journey I would never forget. Now I will have them take your hand and lead you down that same path.  
(**Tosumba Welch**)

Welcome to the Class of 2014. You ought to feel real good about yourselves. You've gone through the application

Wednesdays and definitely at your graduation in May of 2014. (**Munroe Whitlock**)

This is the start to a bright future. This class will challenge you to greatness, and with all the help and support from teachers you will succeed. Each and every one of you will be here surrounded by your fellow classmates for two full semesters. So take the chance to get to know each other. We are all different but all want to succeed.  
(**Brandon Williams**)



# RESPONDING TO LORRAINE HANSBERRY'S *A RAISIN IN THE SUN*

What happens at the very end of the play is Lena grabs her plant and goes out for the last time. They are going to their new home in Clybourne Park. . . . I think that the play's message for the audience is that dreams can be put off, but no matter what, we as families must work together. At some point, who knows what may come of those dreams deferred?

My own personal response is that this play touched on so many emotions. . . . I loved it. I could read this play over and over again. (**Michelle Whitman**)

The play has a happy ending because the Youngers are starting a new life; new beginnings with new problems. We the audience feel they are going to be fine because they are united. They know what they are getting into, and they welcome the challenge over staying in that old familiar place.

I liked the play. I know many families that have had that very same experience. My family was the first black family to move into an all-white community. This was the seventies so we did not experience any intimidation. My family took extra pride in the outside of the house. My grandmother would say, "People may never come inside your house, but they will judge you by the way the outside looks."



They had a network of friends that they would trade flowers and shrubs with, and they would barter for services that they could not afford. We also had to keep the inside perfect for those who were like Mrs. Johnson. We had a lot of looky loos from old neighbors coming to find something to talk about. They were surprised at how our family managed, and they were soon joining us in the new neighborhood. (**Michelle Reams**)

. . . The conclusion of the play, at least in the personhood of Mama, is a happy one. We see her gather up the plant and exit the scene, yet this represents the beginning of this familial odyssey.

I enjoyed "A Raisin in the Sun." There were many parts of the play where the dialogue relative to personal and cultural identity was before its time. I found the characters believable and have since my childhood been captured by Sidney Poitier.

This play motivated me to review other works—August Wilson's "The Piano Lesson," for example—that are thematically similar and present as their message the ability of human beings to find who they are, even in the midst of conflict and turmoil. (**James Morgan**)

I enjoyed this play. At the very end of the play when Walter turns down Mr. Lindner and stands up for himself and the family, you get a sense of pride and forgiveness. Yes, he messed up a lot of money, but he has his family and it's going to be OK.

I think everyone "grew" in this play. Beneatha became a little more humble, Ruth more forgiving, Mama learned and taught acceptance of her family members and their flaws, and even Travis learned from his father's humility and embarrassment. . . .

We can all learn from “A Raisin in the Sun.” It had many messages about love, hope and dreams, challenges and mistakes. Sometimes we have to get on our knees and beg for forgiveness when we mess up. We have to keep the faith in someone who may not at that time seem to deserve it, and we have to teach our children right from wrong. Over all, we have to look after our families and keep them together and moving forward despite the hard times. **(Mary Millon)**



was. **(Amber Turner)**

. . . I feel Beneatha will go the farthest because she chooses education. In this day it's not uncommon for adults to go back to school, but I don't think Walter or Ruth sees that as an option. For me that is a sad reality because it puts them in a

cycle of hard labor with little pay to support their family. . . . This play shows ambition put to good use and for a good cause will go a long way, but greed will and can knock you a few steps behind. **(Patrice Smith)**

. . . There was a lot of touch and go as to whether this move would take place, but they pulled it off. What was found was pride, even after continuous falls. This small family beat or is beating the odds of their time. From this point, they can make new dreams. **(Angela Jordan-Jackson)**

I believe the play's message is no matter what you go through, the good and the bad times, if you don't have family you don't have anything in life. We have to learn to be open minded and not be scared of change.

. . . I really enjoyed “A Raisin in the Sun.” It has opened my eyes to a lot. I really admire this family. When they decided to move, that was a very strong and powerful move. They didn't let fear or past hurts and pain affect their decision to move on to the next chapter of their life and their hopes and dreams. Through Mama's decision to move out, the family's next generations will be proud. **(Derrick McCann)**

. . . In the play the person I think grew the most was Walter. He progressed so much throughout the play. He was angry at one point, then became loving and excited. Then he was hurt and upset, but in the end he grew to be the man his father was. . . . I didn't expect this play to be as deep as it

“A Raisin in the Sun” is one of those plays where you can see the entire family grow with each other. . . . This play has both a happy and sad ending. It's happy because they are moving to a better place with more space, no roaches, no shared bathroom with other neighbors, and with a front and back yard. On the flip side of that coin is the sadness of going to the unknown. How will the neighbors treat them? The once familiar now will be a distant memory. **(Lewis Black)**

. . . This play has a kind of happy ending to it, but ultimately I think it's rather sad. Because Hansberry leaves us wondering what their future holds once they arrive in Clybourne, I think that maybe there is more trouble ahead for the family once they arrive. The story ends with the family on good terms, so I just can't see that all being destroyed so soon. But the reality of that time is that the neighborhood they were moving into put them at risk of being harassed, threatened, or harmed. I sometimes wish that instead of them moving into that neighborhood, they would have sold the Clybourne house and moved into a bigger house, perhaps in a better, predominantly black neighborhood where the people weren't jealous but could embrace a colored family wanting better in life. **(Akilah Freeman)**



# ADMIRING ART



**"King Menkure and His Chief Queen" ~2525 BCE**

As in this statue, your stature is that you are my rock.

From sun up to sun set, with support such as yours no one feels like a threat.

Serene is this scene. Have we yet reached the afterlife?

Or is our steadiness just a dream?

Amun Rā, Amun Dā, such is sacred in every way.

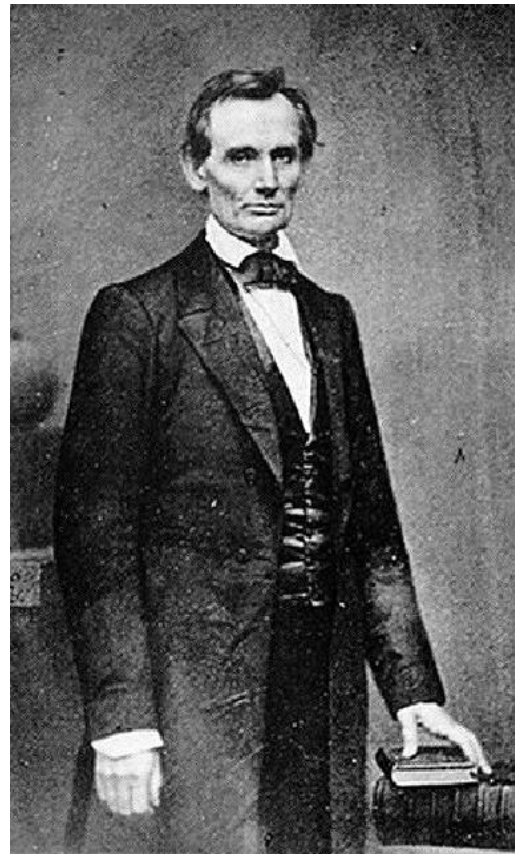
A man, a leader, a forward thinking leader am I, with you forever the Goddess by my immortal side.

**(China Moon Crowell)**

After all . . . At the end of it all  
We stand together. We stand together  
more ways than one. We're family.  
We are Kings and Queens and  
we stand together. I am her King  
and she is my Queen giving  
me strength and support.

We are together and bound forever.  
We will always stand together.

**(El-Rasheedah Wilson)**



**Mathew Brady, "Abraham Lincoln," 1860**

Abraham Lincoln

Look at me

Do I look like a leader?

Look at me

Do I look like I am the President

Of this great nation?

Look at me

Do I look like a man who liberated the slaves?

Look at me

I am the leader, the President

Who won the Civil War,

Who started the future as you know it.

Look at me.

I am Abraham Lincoln,

Sixteenth President of the United States of America

And I helped shape the future of our country.

**(Lewis Black)**

**Andres de Islas. "Sor Juana Inès de la Cruz." 1772 (Figure 1)**

I am a writer  
 who wears a heavy nun's habit,  
 devoted religious woman.  
 Yet books have made me who I am.  
 Books are my loyal companion.  
 I have had them with me for so many years.  
 Some people have criticized me because  
 I have chosen the world of literature  
 as my refuge. Discovering the art of  
 writing has changed my life. Now  
 I have joy, peace, and personal  
 satisfaction.  
 I am Sor Juana Inès de la Cruz.  
 I would like people to remember me  
 as a unique writer  
 who wrote numerous poems  
 regardless of obstacles and criticism.  
**(Angelica Cuahuey)**

**Romare Bearden, "The Dove," 1964 (Figure 2)**

Harlem  
 Monday Morning 1960 8 AM  
 The sounds of the city fill the air.  
 Honk Honk blares the streetcar as someone  
 crosses its path  
 running to catch the 8:05 train to Brooklyn, can't  
 be late.  
 Sun peaking up over the high-rises,  
 I predict "hot" by 9 will be my state.  
 A homeless man sitting at the bus stop,  
 talking to himself, or not.  
 The smells of fresh fish just pulled out of the  
 ocean  
 softened by the smell of Bounty dryer sheets  
 as I pass the Laundromat and "Mrs. Yee's  
 Cleaners."  
 Swish Swish goes the water bucket and the  
 bristles  
 of the broom as he sweeps the sidewalk clean.  
 Ah yes, the start of another week,  
 as I hear the sounds of Duke Ellington,

he plays that horn so mean.  
 Kids dressed in their school clothes  
 waiting on the bus to arrive.  
 Mothers and fathers dressed nicely  
 as they hustle and bustle to work.  
 No, they don't drive. In Harlem  
 you pound the pavement to move,  
 bus, train, or trolley, whatever you choose.  
 Sounds of the city, I'll always be used to.  
 Anywhere else I'd be lost.  
 I'd stay here forever if I could,  
 move through the streets at any cost.  
 Harlem, Harlem, I love you so much.  
 The Saturday nights here just can't be beat.  
 But today is Monday and I'm back on my feet.  
**(Mary Millon)**

**Jacob Lawrence, Migration Series No. 58, 1940-1941 (Figure 3)**

Caption: *"In the North the Negro had better educational facilities."*

Push On  
 We will push towards the mark,  
 number 2, 3, or 4.  
 We are number 1 in our  
 almighty father's eyes,  
 never coming in second, third, or fourth  
 but first in our almighty father's eyes.  
 The one that made you made me too.  
 No matter how you try to push me down,  
 we will all push on.  
 Pushing on is what we do,  
 for the one who made you made me too.  
**(Sharisse Hancock)**

Generations  
 In order to love you  
 I must love myself  
 for you in turn to love her  
 In order to educate you  
 I must first educate myself  
 for you in turn to educate her  
 In order to break the cycle  
 I must first break it for myself

in order to break it for you  
 so there will be a new cycle for her  
 Generations  
**(Jasmine Banks)**

**Judy Chicago, "The Dinner Party," 1979  
 (Figure 4)**

We've come this far by faith  
 leaning on the Lord  
 trusting in his holy word.  
 He's never failed us yet.  
 Let us gather together  
 as we celebrate the achievements  
 of the struggles and the fights we  
 as women have gone through and  
 have endured. Rejoice and be glad  
 in it. The best is yet to come.  
**(Dominique Haskins)**

I love parties, celebrating life, love,  
 success, beauty, wonder, birth, discovery,  
 art, health, death, strength, knowledge,  
 spirit, and mind.

I love the geometric shape that looks like  
 order and organization, collaboration.

I love that there's a place set for many,  
 everyone equal yet unique, just like people are.  
 The table looks regal, royal, majestic,  
 because women should be queens.  
 The women represented here thought so  
 of themselves because they stood for something  
 and made a difference in the world.  
**(Carrie Llerena Sesma)**

**Michelangelo, "Pietà," 1498-1499 (Figure 5)**

Woman, I can feel your pain  
 That sad look in your face  
 Caring nine months of pregnancy  
 Holding him when he was a baby

Seeing him grow  
 Today instead of your baby  
 You are holding  
 His dead body on your lap.

Looking at him  
 Makes me think  
 How atrocious the  
 World is, which makes me sad.  
 Woman, dry up your tears.  
 That was his destiny.  
**(Jovite Rayaisse)**

**"Selket" ~1325 BCE (Figure 6)**

Regal, solid, and pure.  
 I am a woman of value  
 beyond your imagination.  
 Never question who I am  
 for I walk my path without  
 hesitation.  
**(Patrice Smith)**

**Giotto, "Pietà," Fresco 1305-1310 (Figure 7)**

Your sins, my sins, the world's sins  
 On the weight of one's shoulders  
 One man, one soul  
 Who gave faith to so many  
 Yet so many never had faith  
 Living life to die for the people  
 Carrying a cross too heavy to bear,  
 Hung by nails, blood pouring from his rib,  
 Left to die for the sins of others,  
 Pulled down off the cross by his mother,  
 Lying unconscious on his mother's lap  
 as men, women, and heaven are  
 mourning over his holy body,  
 praising and crying over  
 our heavenly man, Jesus Christ,  
 He who gave his life for us!  
**(Amber Turner)**



1



2



3



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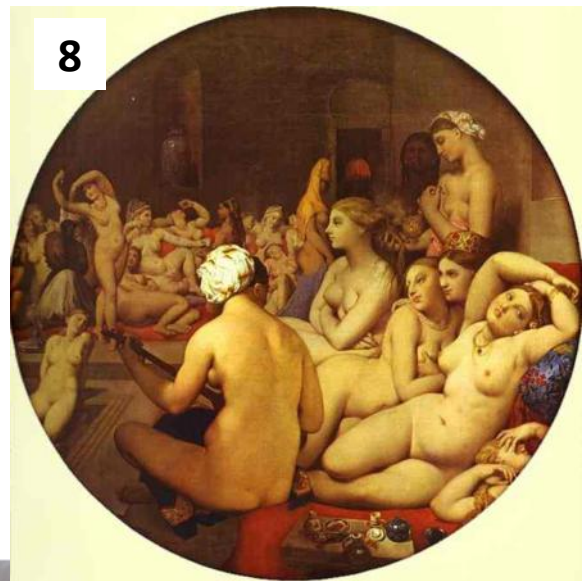
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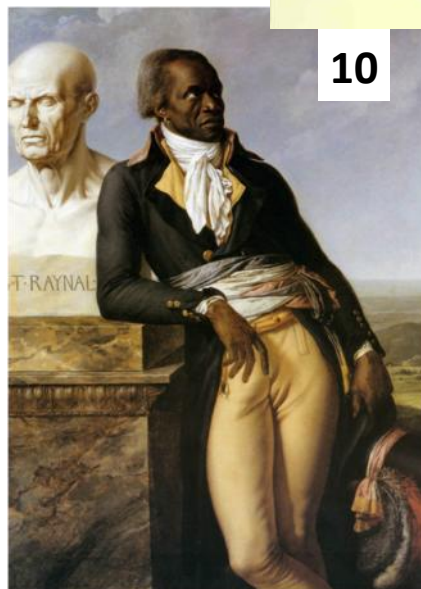
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13

**Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, "The Turkish Bath," 1852-63 (Figure 8)**

Where are your clothes?  
 You sit there with nothing?  
 Aren't you ashamed?  
 Don't you have scars?  
 Weren't you beaten until you cried?  
 Were there not children cut from your womb?  
 Don't you touch me!  
 Why are you staring at me?  
 Well, don't look because  
 I'm ashamed for you.  
 (LoLita Phillips)

**Leonardo da Vinci, "Mona Lisa," 1503 (Figure 9)**

Who do you think I am?  
 What do you see in me?  
 I am a beautiful, middle class woman  
 who is wearing elegant clothes  
 of beautiful colors,  
 and sitting in front of a landscape.  
 My husband is a Florentine merchant.  
 He treats me like a queen.  
 I am very happy and content  
 with my life.  
 (Tracey Cherry)

**Girodet, "Portrait of Jean-Baptiste Belley,"  
 Leaning on a Bust of Abolitionist Philosopher Raynal,  
 1797 (Figure 10)**

Slavery Begot Revolution  
 Slavery has been around since ancient time,  
 in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and Rome.  
 Slaves were people of all kinds,  
 men, women and children.  
 But black people were not the only  
 slaves of the world.  
 You see the white slaves of the French  
 Revolution inspired black slaves of the  
 French West Indies . . .  
 Long story short,  
 there was another revolt

in a distant land traveled by boat.  
 As a result of Toussaint L'Ouverture and  
 Jean-Baptiste Belley's military and political expertise,  
 there emerged an emancipated, self- governing people  
 of the New World on the Island of Haiti.  
 (Munroe Whitlock)

**Mary Cassatt, "The Bath," 1891 (Figure 11)**

What is a Mother?  
 A mother is to her children the conceiver, the one who  
 bore them life.  
 A mother is also to her husband a loving and devoted  
 wife.  
 A mother is a special friend, the kind on which you can  
 depend.  
 A mother is someone who says and does all the right  
 things,  
 A mother has a special joy which she always brings.  
 A mother has the hands that tuck you in tight,  
 The lips that kiss you and carry the voice that says  
 good-night.  
 A mother is to each of us a special sort of gain,  
 the kind which a poem could never explain.  
 Oh yes, mother, you are that special touch,  
 The one we need so much.  
 No explanation is quite as clear  
 As the explanation of you, mother dear.  
*Dedicated to the loving memory of my grandmother,  
 Corinda Perkins*  
 (Michelle Perkins Whitman)

**Icon of the Crucifixion ~700 (Figure 12)**

He was a son of God  
 who sacrificed his life to die  
 on the cross for our sins.  
 He was mocked by the soldiers,  
 crowned with thorns and beaten.  
 He was crucified and hanged on the cross  
 between two crucified thieves.  
 Nails were driven through his hands and feet.  
 He was stripped naked,  
 went through suffering and death.  
 Those who loved him were there



when he was crucified.  
 Red color was the blood that he shed.  
 He was humble through his suffering,  
 although he had the power to stop everything.  
 (Nancy Wambua)

**Homer Boss, "Young Woman in Black," ~1909-1910  
 (Figure 13)**

You'll never know what's in my mind.  
 You'll never see the feeling  
 through my eyes.  
 You can't even guess  
 when I'll be crying or smiling.  
 You're just a child, a child to me.  
 Now let's move on.  
 I'm no longer carrying on.  
 You're wasting my time.  
 Let me go, let me go.  
 I'm busy in my head,  
 and I can't wait to write it down,  
 to write it down.  
 (Tanatnan Chaipang)

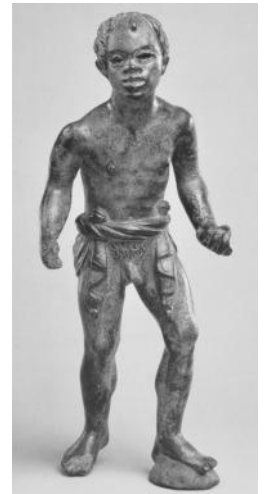
**"Black Youth," Third Century B.C.E.**

You took me from my home.  
 You asked me to build, grow,  
 and nurture your young.

I plant your crops,  
 Bringing you great fortune,  
 but what do you give me?  
 a whip, a slap, or a punch.  
 If I leave you,  
 I'll end up hanging.  
 (Akilah Freeman)

**"Attic Head Vase," 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Century B.C.E.**

Distant traveler "BCE"  
 Imagine me? Woolly hair, thick  
 lips,  
 Watermelon optional!  
 Centuries wide—I dance in shameful pride,  
 Blackhide (hide) nose wide  
 I spied Jim Crow, Black Codes,  
 Civil Rights, the "Knights" of BeBop  
 Swing, Swing, Swing in the  
 "Strange Fruit" slow swing the  
 aged,  
 6<sup>th</sup>- to 5<sup>th</sup>- century BCE  
 B BLACK  
 C CUSHITE  
 E ETHIOPIAN  
 The First Encounter!  
 (James Morgan)



# MOZART'S DON GIOVANNI

## AN OPERA SUMMARY BY CHINA MOON CROWELL

I took my mother, Robin, to Mozart's "Don Giovanni" for her 58<sup>th</sup> birthday. We enjoyed ourselves and the opera immensely! So much is going on!

Over 200 years later, this story is still happening to certain men and women to this day. Don Giovanni (Don Juan) is the man who has a "not-so-black-book" that reads like notches in a headboard. He has over 2,000 conquests of women from Spain,

Italy, Turkey, France and more. His trusted servant Leporello keeps a hold of said catalog and tells us of Don Giovanni, "he says, 'to be true to only one woman is to punish the others.' And, 'I love the blonde ones for their kindness, the brunettes for their consistency, the gray ones for their sweetness.'"

He makes love to countless women, be they maids, princesses, beautiful debutantes, or ugly ones; it

does not matter. He even has seasons to which he says, "in the winter I like them plump and in the summers I like them thin."

Every performer in this production was on point; we begin by Leporello playing look-out while the masked Don Giovanni is inside the Commendatore's residence trying to woo Donna Anna. After being found out by the father (the Commendatore), Don Giovanni descends the balcony with the father and Donna Anna close behind. The Commendatore challenges Don Giovanni to a duel and after a short one-on-one battle, he is killed. After Leporello and Don Giovanni make their escape, Donna Anna asks her fiancé, Don Ottavio, to make it his will to avenge her father's death.

After a while Donna Elvira enters. This lady is a 'former conquest' of Don Giovanni's and is in for a rude awakening once Leporello explains to her that she "isn't the first and won't be the last" of his many, many, MANY women. Leporello goes down the list of numbers and countries that show Mister Giovanni being quite the busy womanizer. In comes the marriage of Masetto and his bride Zerlina. Don Giovanni even flirts with her while Donna Elvira pleads with Zerlina that he (Giovanni) is no good. Elvira also warns Anna who has been traveling about and doesn't know Giovanni's face but DOES recognize his voice in anguish.

Don Giovanni decides to throw quite the shin-dig and invites the entire wedding party to his home for an evening of dancing, drinking, and carrying-on. Wearing masks, Anna, Elvira, and Ottavio decide to crash the party; once inside the ballroom Giovanni tries to

seduce Zerlina into the bedroom. She cries out. Anna, Elvira, and Ottavio remove their masks and with boastful thunder accuse Giovanni of his actions. Don Giovanni is taken by surprise, blames his servant (not himself or his behavior), but escapes nonetheless.

After that fiasco Giovanni switches clothes with Leporello. He takes Elvira on a moonlit stroll while his master woos Donna Elvira's maid. Leporello is found out by Anna, Elvira and Ottavio on a case of mistaken identity and in fear of his life explains, "I am not who you think I am." He removes his hat and cloak to reveal himself for who he really is before managing to escape (barely) with his life. And after all this, Elvira's heart still beats for this pleasure seeker.

After his triumphs Giovanni meets up with Leporello in the cemetery near the grave stone statue of Commendatore, who warns Don Giovanni his way of life is short lived. After inviting the statue to dinner, the Commendatore accepts. Along with the Commendatore who beckons Giovanni to repent, Elvira also pleads with him to change his wicked ways. Amidst Giovanni's laughter and refusal to atone for his behavior, he is taken by the hand and body by the Commendatore and consumed within flames as he descends to Hell.



# MOVED BY MARTIN AND MALCOLM

*“Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children. . . . I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.’ . . . Let freedom ring!”—*  
Martin Luther King, Jr. , “I Have a Dream,” 1963

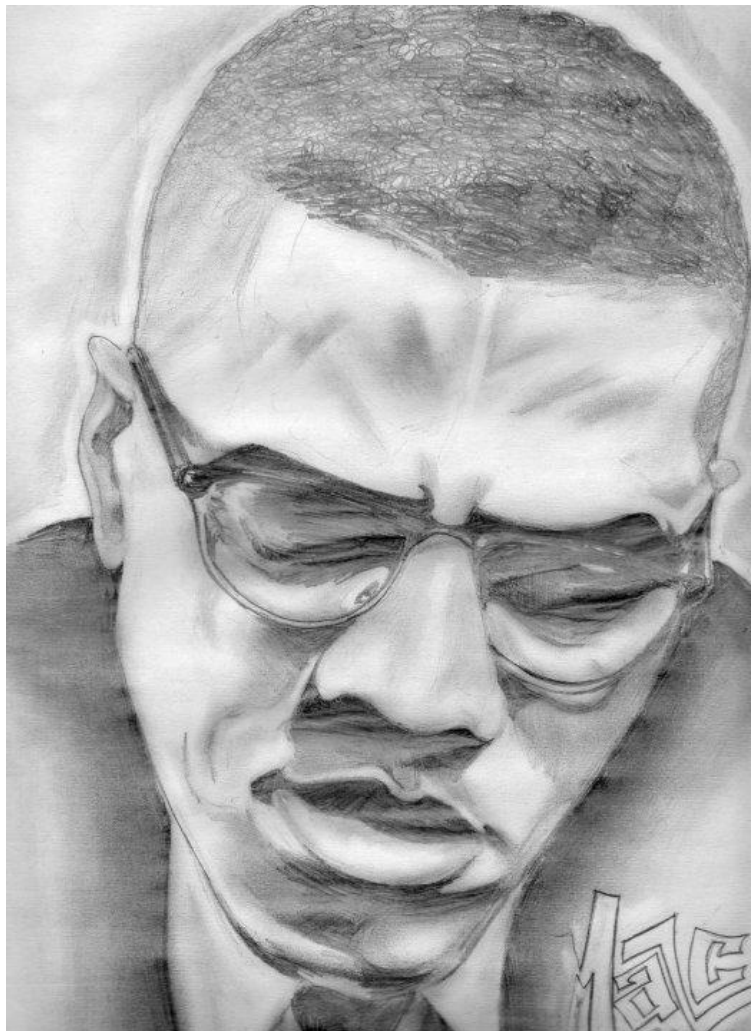
*“I don’t see any American dream; I see an American nightmare. . . . Uncle Sam’s hands are dripping with blood, dripping with the blood of the black man in this country. . . . We want freedom now, but we’re not going to get it saying ‘We Shall Overcome.’”—*  
Malcolm X, “The Ballot or the Bullet,” 1964

In reading Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I have a dream” speech and Malcolm X’s “The Ballot or the Bullet” speech, I found some similarities as well as differences, not only in the structure of the speeches but also in their messages.

Martin Luther King’s speech expressed the urgency of making this country just and of uniting all people in the U.S. as one, whether we are black, white, yellow, or brown. Dr. King expresses his gratitude for our forefathers who wrote the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. He urged that the time is now for these proclamations to be carried out for whites and blacks alike, giving all a chance for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Malcolm X’s speech “The Ballot or the Bullet” expressed urgency also—for Black Nationalism and for black people to take a Black Nationalist stand. This is the way other countries in Asia and some parts of Africa gained full freedom. He stated that we need to stop taking money out of the black community and putting it in the hands of the already wealthy white communities. He

states that singing “We Shall Overcome” is not the answer to freedom and calls for swinging instead



of singing as the only way to get out of the hands of our oppressor. Malcolm X also reflected on what our forefathers had done but explained it was not for the blacks that these actions were taken; it was for themselves. (**Sharisse Hancock**)

. . . After reading Malcolm X's speech, I found King's speech to seem fluffy and idealistic, even unrealistic. King chose his words very cautiously, so cautious that they sound maudlin to me. We now know that King's word selection and method of protest worked in the end. Malcolm's speech got you going. I thought he was absolutely brilliant. His analogies and metaphors painted such a vivid picture of the state of things, how they got that way, and how to move forward to change things. He wanted his community to see things as they were with their eyes wide open and to empower themselves to be aggressive to change the true state of their condition.

Both King and Malcolm spoke about the urgency of things and said the time for waiting is over. They both felt that America has denied black people liberty and justice and that the time for change is now. (**Michelle Reams**)

The main point for both speeches is equality between blacks and whites.

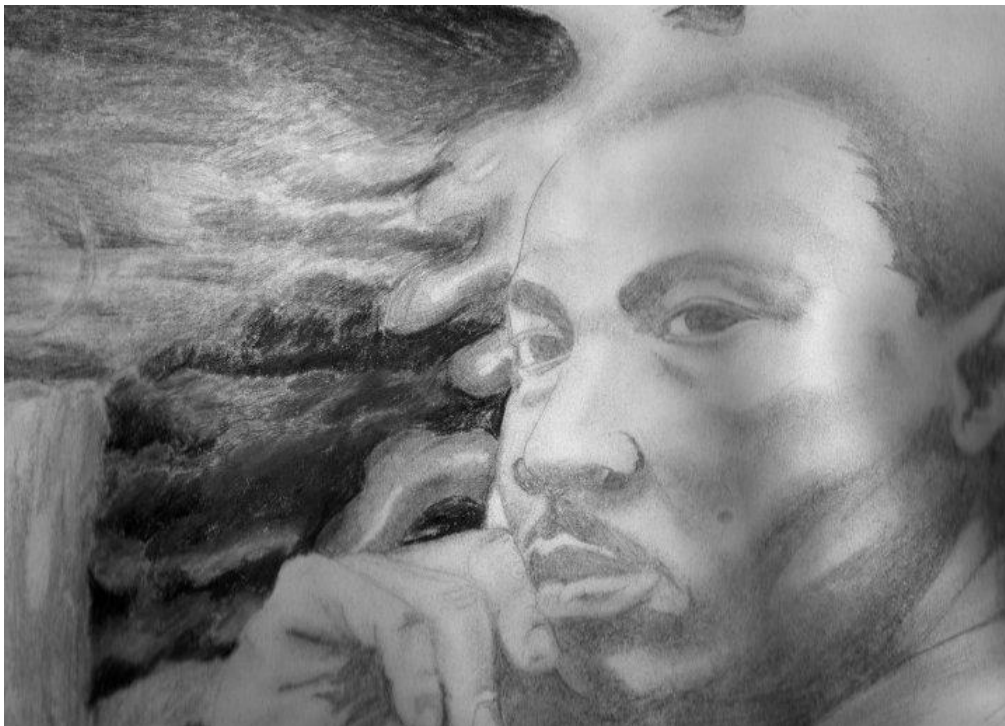
Martin Luther King starts his speech out by saying "I am *happy*." That right there sets the tone for the rest of his speech, the points he makes and how he makes them.

Malcolm X starts his speech out in an accusatory tone: "I just can't believe everyone here is a friend." Out of the gate Malcolm X's passion for his journey was aggressive. Malcolm X name-calls (honkies, Dixiecrats, etc.).

They differ in their tone and how they get the same exact point across. They differ in that one has the feel of talking to working class people; one is talking to all. As you read both, Martin Luther King keeps a calm feeling to his speech, and Malcolm X is the exact opposite. (**Jasmine Banks**)

These two men and their speeches are polar opposites, like the weather. They're getting around to the same sunshine, just on very different wisps of wind.

After reading and re-reading each of these men's speeches, you can feel the difference in the gateway of their visions. Martin Luther King speaks as a warm, peacenik pacifist, if you will, while Malcolm's speech is a blunt rendition of the cold, hard truth. In both speeches, there is much repetition throughout—Malcolm continuously and forcefully repeats the word "you" to allow it to sink in that his audience is poor, black, and ignored, while Martin Luther King repeats the words, "I have a dream." Malcolm X emphasizes that the time is





now, that blacks are sick and tired of being sick and tired of waiting for whites and the government to decide when and where there will be a call to action. . . .

The “I have a dream” speech is warm, calm, and patient, while Malcolm’s words are cold, non-submissive, intimidating, and dark. There was a choice to be made: “dream on” or make it happen on your own time through “the ballot or through the bullet.”  
(China Moon Crowell)



. . . Martin Luther King was a devout Christian, whereas Malcolm X was a Muslim. Martin wanted to get things accomplished without aggression or violence, and Malcolm X did not. Martin wanted everyone to be counted as an equal, and Malcolm X wanted there to be a clear segregation of the white people and black people in America, with different areas for each to live because he felt that they would never get along. There was always that main goal of racial equality, just different methods of getting there. After Malcolm X’s assassination, Martin said, “Nothing good can ever come from preaching violence!” (Dominique Haskins)

Wow, this was so deep to me that I don’t know where to begin! Malcolm X has an aggressive, firm way of getting your juices flowing, like his words are slapping you in the face, while Martin will win you over with the same power but his words and sounds come out like he wants everything handled with care.

I love the way Malcolm makes you have a bunch of Odyssey moments, where you say, “Dang, I never

thought of that!” He’s very quick with his words. I felt like he had a vicious rod at the end of him holding a long chain ready to attack for righteousness. Martin gives you words that are food for thought. Both made me so much more politically aware of who I’m voting for to make sure I have myself as well as the people at heart with my choice. Give me liberty or give me death. Make sure you and yours are being represented and have their rights.  
(Angela Jordan-Jackson)

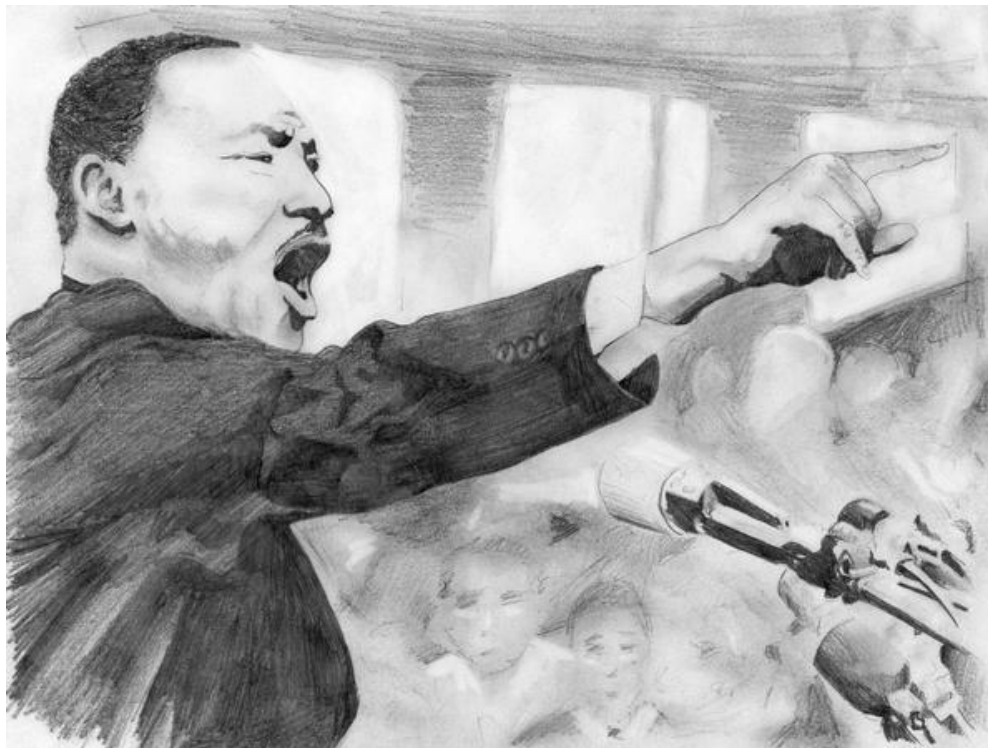
King says that now is the time to see justice and equality for all people. He says while we gain our rightful place we must not engage in wrongful doings. We must keep dignity and not hate all white people.

Malcolm also says the time is now to take action in our own progress. He says don’t sit and wait for white people to figure out how to help us. He says we need to fight by re-educating ourselves and doing business together in our own communities. Malcolm and Martin both talk about freedom and equality. They both talk about unity and change.

They both talk about a new age of unity of blacks. Both say despite the fact things are not easy, we need to overcome and move forward into claiming what we ought to be and have.

Malcolm differs from Martin in that he's not passive. Malcolm says we should stand up and fight for what we want. . . .

I personally was moved this time when I read these speeches. I have worked in Madison's low income communities and lived there, experiencing firsthand the problems that are obvious. The main reason I think is as Malcolm X said: blacks have in general a



mentality that is of a slave who acts like he is not independent and can't find answers. They complain and expect much but give little, in fact looking for chances to take from each other and anyone. I did a study in South Madison for the Urban League's Promise Zone project. I found and documented lots of concerns. Many people I spoke with were black males who were single or should I say self-separated from their families. When I asked why, it was mostly due to their own selfish actions of violence, irresponsibility, and ignorance. Yet they

had the attitude that they quit trying because nothing will change. They blamed the Urban League, saying, "What will they do to change this?" They didn't realize that they need to be the change they want to see. . . . (**Carrie Llerena Sesma**)

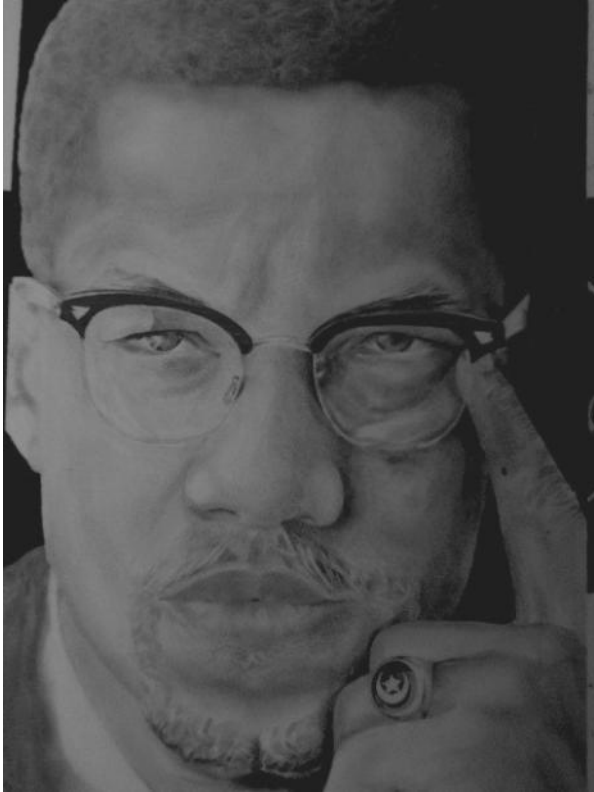
Martin Luther King Jr. comes out as passionate and compromising when his speech is compared to the "Ballot or the Bullet" speech of Malcolm X. In the "I have a dream" speech, Martin Luther King related factors affecting African Americans in a metaphorical manner. He pointed out that the struggle for equality was a push for justice that would equitably serve the white and the black alike.

He also identifies the irony of referring to America as a free country because even after more than a hundred years the African American was not free. . . .

Malcolm X's "Ballot or the Bullet" clearly emphasizes that integration is not a viable option for African Americans. . . . He states, "Don't change the white man's mind—you can't change his mind, and that whole thing about appealing to the moral conscience of America—America's conscience is bankrupt. She lost all

conscience a long time ago. Uncle Sam has no conscience." Furthermore, he goes on to talk about how the African American community must come together and solve the problem of equality for themselves because there will be no reprieve from the government.

Both of these men eventually wanted the same thing; they just had different ways of achieving the goal. Neither one of these men would ever know that the goal is still trying to be realized today. We



Malcolm refers to Patrick Henry and George Washington. Each speech points to the beliefs and philosophy in action that led to significant change in America when the rights and privileges of its citizens were at issue.

The speeches differ in tone and in language. . . . King's is a subtle tone that incorporates a plea and urgency that those who govern take action to forego "gradualism" in addressing the "Negro problem" in America. Malcolm's tone is one of non-negotiation to the extent that there's either the Ballot or the Bullet. King attempts to appeal to the "white conscience"; Malcolm is direct in his focus upon "white fear" of potential black violence to achieve freedom in America . . .

Both Martin Luther King and Malcolm X (El Hajj Malik el Shabazz) died by the Bullet, not the Ballot. **(James Morgan)**

have come a long way in America, but I still feel that there is racial disparity across the board. We are closer to Martin's Dream than ever, but we have had to go through a lot of ballots and bullets to get there. **(Mary Millon)**

The primary focus of the King speech is a call, indeed a plea, for the American government to enact laws and policies giving the Negro equality and justice under the law. His plea uses the Emancipation Proclamation, the Constitution, and the Declaration of Independence, as well as Biblical references to support this call for civil freedoms.

The primary focus of the Malcolm speech is a call for unity formed in Black Nationalism and a call to respect and recognize human rights. Malcolm's speech is also a demand that would require direct action to achieve equality and justice.

The speeches have in common the reference to America's founders and revolutionaries. Dr. King comes with Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson;

Martin had a dream in which he felt we should all become one in unity, and Malcolm felt we were living in a nightmare in which we needed to separate ourselves from the white man. Martin incorporated religion in his speech; Malcolm believed that religion would derail the people from the issues at hand. He felt that there was a need for Black Nationalism.

There were also some comparisons. Martin saw that we still languished in the corners of American society and find ourselves in exile in our own land. Malcolm states that anywhere we go we find that we are trapped, and every kind of solution someone comes up with is just another trap. . . .

Martin uses a more peaceful approach in his style, while Malcolm coats the truth less: he just tells it like it is. Martin is more docile while Malcolm is more radical. They differ in that one turns the other cheek and the other will slap you back. **(Michelle Whitman)**

*Sketches in this section by Stanley Sallay '07*

# MORE MEMORABLE PLACES



## I Know of a Place

I know of a place where I can learn.  
I know a place that's full of love and happiness,  
And there's never a dull moment.  
This is the most comfortable place I know.

I can go there and eat, laugh, learn, and love. . . .

It doesn't matter who you sit next to:

Just grab a seat!

You can learn about history,

some of your heritage, and a little art.

Ever thought about becoming a writer?

Well, you can learn to write here, too.

This place is called Odyssey.

**(LoLita Phillips)**



## My Backyard

Our yard at 2131 N. Hubbard Street in Milwaukee was as wide as the length of a barn and as half as long. One spring my mother asked me to dig up the yard and turn the soil. I was

nine years old. I turned the soil for what I thought was a whole week. Then she told me to chop the big piece of soil because the soil had to be fine so that plant seeds could grow up through it. I asked, "Do I have to rake it also?" She said, "Yes." Therefore, I used an iron rake to chop and rake the soil at the same time. I hoed out a row between each planting row so I could have space to walk and weed the plants once they started growing.

I planted, weeded, watered, built scarecrows, turned melons, and chased away rabbits from spring to fall every year from age nine to eighteen. My mother and I spent that time together every year, no matter what else was going on in our lives. Every fall I would remember all the work I did in that field, just to hear my mother say to her friends, "Look at the food I've grown!" I thought, really? All I saw you do was stand in the door and shout instructions!

**(Munroe Whitlock)**



## Coming Out of the Cave

Odyssey students and professors have helped me grow and learn so much about myself. Joining this class, I learned that everywhere I go I will be surrounded by new people such as in a new school, new job, and even a new home. I was shy joining the class because I was always targeted for my sexuality. Odyssey taught me about several activists who positively fought for rights. That gives me the strength to fight for my rights.



Starting Odyssey I thought about my cave, and now I see how far I have come. Starting this class I thought the name students I grew up with gave me ("Gay Brandon") was who I was. Today I see a Brandon who doesn't let his sexuality define him, but a Brandon who defines everything he does.

**(Brandon Williams)**



# I HAVE A DREAM



I have a dream that one day this world will not judge others by their outward appearance but by the beauty within their hearts, minds and souls. I have a dream that one day this world will credit me for my lovely, outgoing personality.



I have a dream of being the first member of my family who attends college. I want to prove to my father that education matters since one day he told me education wasn't for me. For that reason, I will not give up because I have hopes and dreams.

**(Angelica Cuahuey)**

I have a dream that in this day my daughter will grow up to be healthy, wealthy and wise, first and foremost putting God first in her life. I have a dream that one day my daughter will reach adulthood as a wife and mother and put God at the head of her family's table, like we have for many generations in our family.

I have a dream that in this day that I will love myself for who I am and love others for who they are.

I have a dream that in this day I will not forget this journey called Odyssey and the door it has opened enabling me to see that I can achieve greatness in my educational future which lies ahead. I have a dream that in this day that my classmates realize all the amazing work they have done since September 2012 as well as the profound impact they have had on my life every Wednesday night.

I have a dream that one day we will achieve the victory of all of our dreams.

**(Sharisse Hancock)**



I have a dream to accomplish a goal that is unheard of for a man my age: to obtain a degree yet begin it at age 62. That dream is not just to benefit myself. I'm hoping that others that find themselves beginning their education late in life are encouraged, too. . . .

**(Munroe Whitlock)**



I have a dream to succeed, to become educated and informed, and to communicate while teaching others. I don't know specifics on who or what to teach; I just want others to know what I know. I've been ignorant and blindsided by society, the government and, hell, even my own mother and her mother. But I've learned to learn and I love learning, finding new answers and questions to ask. I'm learning what it takes to make a dream happen. **(Akilah Freeman)**



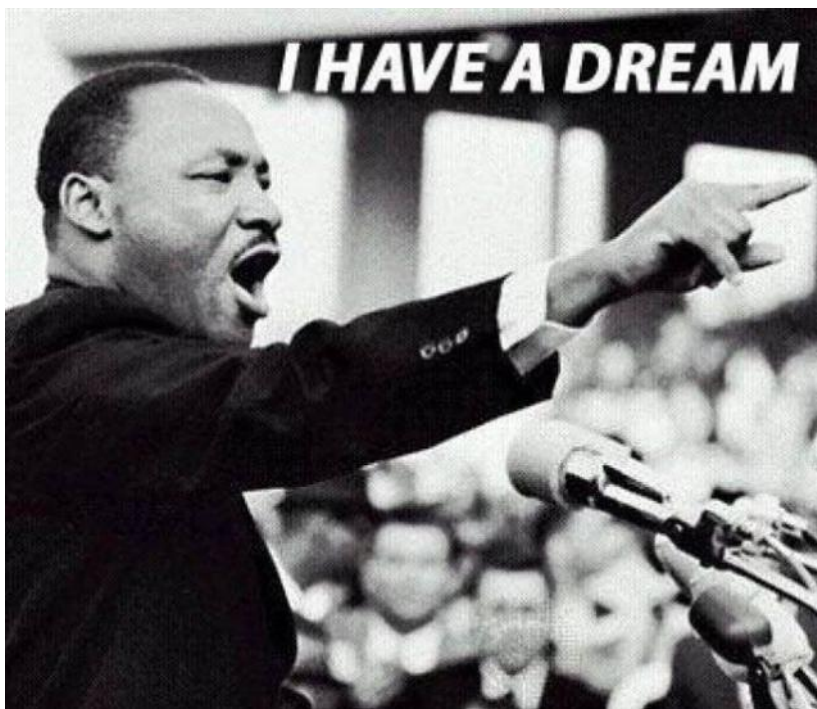
I have a dream that all would go back. It would be like us starting all over. No injustice. No clothes. No reason to wonder how (God got that). Cuz we all know what needs to be known, what is unknown is just that . . . unknown.

**(Eunice Conley)**



I have a dream that everything that seemed hard will mean nothing. In this dream I focus on the green. Money, honey! My success keeps me from distress. I have a dream that will be REALITY. **(Brandon Williams)**

I have a dream that I will show the world just how much of an educational woman I am. My ideas, my dreams will not only be enclosed in my mind but will be released for all to see. I can't wait to see where



Everybody will be rich. Nobody will know what it is to struggle. We won't have to worry about bills. The struggle will be over. **(Shalonda Hilliard-Jones)**



I have a dream of peace and harmony, families loving caring sharing, communities helping each other, schools teaching about civil rights and Socrates, churches serving their members, no need for mental health treatment, and the world is peaceful and calm. **(Michelle Reams)**



my journey will take me because in my enclosed mind, my dreams show a future where struggle is no longer. I see a future where not only will my son know the definition of success but he will see the visual example through me, his mother. I have a dream. I see a future where he will follow in my footsteps! **(Amber Turner)**



I have a dream that I'll go back to school, finish my education (master's or MBA) in computer, have my own business. I have a dream of being a model for my children. **(Jovite Rayaisse)**



I have a dream that one day I wake my ass up and get on with life. I don't know what the hell I'm waiting for. I don't have that much time left, so I better get my stuff together so I can get up and out of here. **(El-Rasheedah Wilson)**



I have a dream that one day my life will be heard. I have a dream that one day in the future that my cries will be listened to, that the pain I have felt others will understand. I have a dream to one day be able to come home to an understanding family and that my dreams will no longer become nightmares. I have a dream that my children will learn from all my mistakes and take another route in life, see all of my troubles and go the opposite way to strive towards excellence. I have a dream to one day be heard by this world and embraced with passion, love, and brother and sisterhood. This is my dream, so don't wake me up. **(Tosumba Welch)**



I have a dream that one day I will have all the things I desire. Someday I want to own a restaurant called El Michley Own, serving everything imaginable. If we don't have it, we'll get it. I have even picked out the spot where I'd like it to be. All I have to do is continue going to school for Culinary Arts and a few other things. Then I will complete my dream. **(Lewis Black)**

I have a dream that one day I will be rich.



I have a dream that one day all my bills will be paid, my credit score bill will go up, and my debts will come down. I have a dream of working in a field I enjoy, having a career and not just a job, smiling at work a real smile, not just a pretend smile that comes with the job. I have a dream that I will break through my fears and stand bold and proud. **(Patrice Smith)**



I have a dream that one day I will be a successful lady taking care of my family and helping those in need. Odyssey has opened my eyes and mind, and I have come to realize that with education you can be whatever you want. I want to continue with my education until my dreams come true. I would also like to help many others to know that education is the way to success, no matter what obstacles they are facing in life. **(Nancy Wambua)**



I have a dream that one day I will be famous by being discovered at my job at the Lake Street Parking Ramp while I'm in the booth working. Someone will ask me if I would like to be a part of a movie or an extra in a movie.

I have a dream today! I have a dream that I will be so good in that movie that Oprah herself will send for me to be on her own network and talk about how I, Dominique, was discovered by someone when I was working in the booth. I'm famous at last. I'm famous at last. Thank God almighty, I'm famous at last! **(Dominique Haskins)**

I have a dream that I will have contentment and happiness within my life. There's no mandatory need for a bigger house, although I wouldn't mind. But a small lounge in addition to my cocktail catering company—nothing big, about 2,000



feet—would be good. A business management degree is on my wall, money is in the bank, and I have the ability to travel to my homelands with my husband and future children.

I'd like to leave this world with a humanitarian legacy and a well-taught family business behind. **(China Moon Crowell)**



I have a dream that one day I will see my son walk across that stage. This has been a dream of mine since he was very young. I see how hard it is out there now for a young black man. I struggle to keep his eyes on the prize, to see a bigger picture. Some days are good and some are bad. But I fear this cold, cold world will get him so down he can't get up. I've been there, so I know it's not impossible. But it takes a lot of courage to do it.

I have a dream my son will be everything he wants to be because he's smart, funny, and talented. I want him to know that my dream is for him to be anything he wants to be. **(Mary Millon)**



I have a dream that one day I will see my brothers and sisters living in harmony. Love your neighbor as you love yourself. One day I want to see all my children having a life of pure happiness, enjoying their children's children and being able to share their love for their life in full bloom. I had a dream last night that I will live to be 111 years old. That was my dream. **(Jovenus Price Pierce)**

I have a dream to live my life to the fullest with no regrets, to not only teach what I know but forever appreciate the freedom to learn what I don't. I have a dream to have the kind of knowledge that



sets me free as well as my children and grandchildren.

My heart, mind, and soul thirst for as well as thrive off making a difference, whether big or small. I am here for a purpose, and finding out (knowing) what that is is truly worth its weight in gold. I have a dream that no dream is too big. (**Jasmine Banks**)



I have a dream that someday there will be, for all people, the ability, knowledge, and love of self to embrace the "other." I have a dream that someday we will all know that there is life in living and living in life, that true love, justice, equality, and freedom belong to all of us. I have a dream that we will one day come to embrace joy, peace, and struggle so that the growth of humanity may reign supreme in the "essence" of the universe. (**James Morgan**)



I have a dream for a secret word called attraction. You see, I found out that the mind works by attraction. We are all attracted to what we think about. If I dream or attract positivity and release it into the universe, the universe will begin to make room for my thoughts. Think positive and positive will come. Think negative and this shall you sow unto yourself. So if I want to be successful, I say to the universe, I am successful, I am winning, I am a bright light of dreams and bountiful changes.

The key to life is staying positive no matter what. Now, if I stub my toe I can become angry and let this moment bleed through my day, but if I have that feeling but address myself back in a positive way, my day will continue to be productive. . . . Attract what you want, Angie, and speak to the universe. Live in that moment. See that you're living it and manifest your dreams. (**Angela Jordan-Jackson**)



I have a dream that one day, just like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King dreamed about, we will rise and overcome our oppression, our ignorance, our contentment with life the way it is. I have a dream not only to encourage people and help raise children to know and love themselves but also to help people realize their dreams. I want to help people realize that we all have a talent and a gift that the world needs. I want to help bring out the light in the world and provide outlets and opportunity for my family and anyone, everyone, all my people to rise and shine.

I used to feel like all my efforts were for naught. One day I'll wake up and be there. That day is now. I am awake and am starting a business that I diligently work on every day, for free, with faith that one day my dream will manifest and grow bigger than I ever dreamed. Everywhere I go, I see the world in a new light. (**Carrie Llerena Sesma**)



I have a dream that started when I was a child. When I was a good child, I dreamed that when I grew up I would be a good student. When I was a good student, I dreamed I wanted to gain enough income to support my family. When I gained enough income to support my family, I dreamed I would be a good mother. Today I am a mother and I dream of having satisfaction and happiness. (**Tanatnan Chaipang**)

I have a dream that one day my problems from the past will no longer restrict my future. My past hurts







and cries of sorrow will be a lesson of encouragement and inspiration and will give me a voice to speak to the youth of many faces, backgrounds, and colors, from many nations and states, inspiring many to live and dream that no matter what they go through and

no matter how hard it might seem, they can make it out. I see myself speaking at many schools and community events.

A man who had a dream now has dominated the entertainment field from music to movies to clothing. I stand as a mogul and the first man in my family to graduate from college. Derrick McCann has moved from struggling with depression to making millions in the recession. (**Derrick McCann**)



I have a dream that all women will support each other throughout our struggles, from young girls being raped by their fathers to single mothers without a home. I have a dream we will uplift each other instead of discouraging each other, from all the negative gossip in the

streets to congratulating each other on the promotion we have achieved.

I have a dream that one day it won't be all about the way our bodies are shaped or the length of our hair, that we will appreciate ourselves for who we are and were created to be. I have a dream that our sons and husbands will no longer look at us as a household name, that all our work would not be in vain.

I have a dream that this world will see the value of women. (**Britney Sinclair**)

I have a dream to keep on dreamin', dream about the future while only glancin' at the past. Hold on a second while I capture a dream, a dream of my



future.

My dreams are bigger than me. In my dreams I am happy, but not all the time. I'm falling from the sky in my dreams, but I wake up before I hit the ground. Before I know it, I'm asleep again, dreamin' about talkin'

before an audience. Educating the world is my newest dream, passing along more hope and dreams, reminding my audience that some dreams do come true. But the real message is . . . to keep on dreamin'. (**Lolita Phillips**)



I have a dream that I will one day be all I aspire to be, a lawyer, advocate, the voice of those not allowed to speak. I dream of a life where I will cry no more tears from pain, but when I can cry for the joys and goals I have obtained.

This dream I had, I had as a child, this dream to my face always brings a smile. This dream I dream of me, a black child, no longer caged up but allowed to walk that mile, to reach for my goals and beyond, to be all I aspire to be, not just a black woman, educated and free, but my dream is all of this and much more with dignity.

(**Michelle Whitman**)



I have a dream that one day I graduate from college and that my four children and all my grandchildren are attending. I have a dream that I overcome my depression and anxiety and am able to help people who have gone through my situations, giving them

encouragement and love. I have a dream that my son goes to appeal court soon so that I can stop worrying. He can be home to help with my schoolwork and go to college himself.

(**Tracey Cherry**)

# TACKLING TIM O'BRIEN

*"I was a coward. I went to war."*—Tim O'Brien, "On Rainy River"



Tim O'Brien calls himself a coward, which is true and at the same time false. I think he called himself a coward

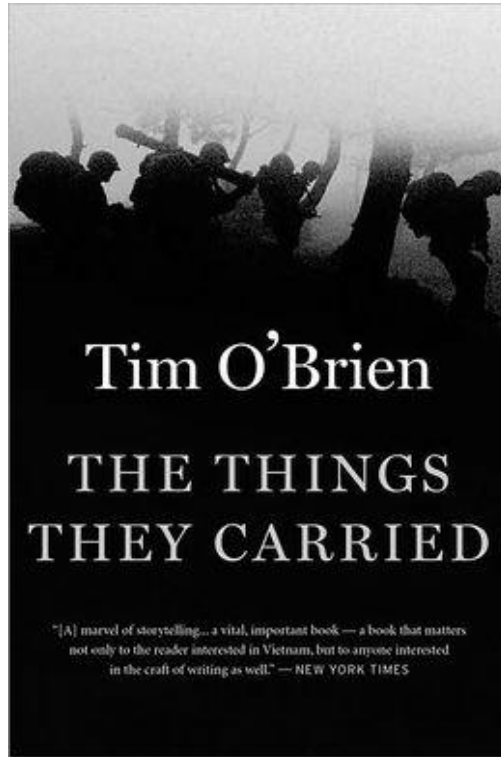
because he was afraid of making his own decisions about fighting in the war. His other choice was not to fight but go border hopping.

This could be a troubling experience for a 21-year old who is barely even living his life yet and then receives a draft slip saying you have to be off to fight in a war you don't even understand. A lot of the people who got drafted had to make those same decisions. I don't think any of them, even Mr. O'Brien, was a coward either way. They all had to make a decision. Personally I would have run. I would have gone for that border. I believe in fighting for something that's worth fighting for, but not when you don't understand it. **(Lewis Black)**



He needed to decide between going to war, fleeing to Canada, or killing himself. He calls himself a coward for his reason for fighting in Vietnam, which was because he was embarrassed not to go.

I do not believe that he was a coward at all, nor is anyone else who questions all possibilities when it comes to war. I can't imagine



putting my life on the line without understanding it or knowing why I was doing it. To be quite honest, it suggests that war is senseless. **(Jasmine Banks)**



The main character has to make the decision to go to the Vietnam War when he was drafted or run away to Canada.

He chose to go back home and go to the war. He called himself a coward because even though he was against the war and even though he ran away to start a new life, he couldn't overcome

embarrassment of other people ridiculing him for not going to war. So he did what he thought others would deem right instead of what he believed in. He was scared to look bad.

I agree he was a coward for going back. If he felt that strongly against going to war and wanted to take a different route, he should have tried it. . . .

I imagine lots of people felt similar about war. They must have felt trapped by the draft. I don't think it's fair. I wouldn't want it to happen to me or anyone. It should be a choice to go fight in a war. **(Carrie Llerena Sesma)**

The big decision he has to make is if he is going to go to the Vietnam War after he has been drafted. This story spoke to me because many times in life I have found myself wanting to run away from the



reality of life but never really having a destination or plan. I have been on the edge of that boat crying as well. . . .

Many young men were drafted against their will. Many young men had to decide whether to leave or stay. I can't imagine what it would be like living in those years of uncertainty. It must have been a horrible time of turmoil in his life. **(Mary Millon)**



Tim's world comes crashing down with a draft notice. A young man with a free ride to a better education has his dreams crushed. Tim is faced with the dilemma of fighting a war he does not support or fleeing the country to avoid his call of duty. A heavy conscience and heartbreak battle within. . . . I feel he was brave in facing his fear on the battlefield. I'm not sure I would've been strong enough to do so. **(Patrice Smith)**



He was very scared and confused. I think he called himself a coward because at the end he still did something he didn't want to, that he didn't believe in. . . . The war to me was not fair. They made men go without even really giving them a chance to say no. **(El-Rasheedah Wilson)**

The decision that Tim had to make was whether to honor his conviction of not going to war and killing people for no reason. He wrestled with the fact that he had questions related to the war. Was the war right? Why was the U.S. so divided on the war? Why weren't the facts about the war clear? . . .



He called himself a coward because he did not want to deal with the embarrassment and shame that he would have experienced from the rejection of his family, friends, community, state, and other parts of the government for his decision to avoid the war.

I don't want to say that Tim was a coward. I think more so he was a young, confused person. He put a lot of stock in what people thought about him and how this country thought about how to address communism. . . . **(Munroe Whitlock)**



. . . I thought he was a coward because he only went to escape the embarrassment of the people mocking him and giving him stares, but then I'm thinking he wasn't a coward because at the end of the day it takes courage to go to war just as much as it takes courage to avoid war. The Vietnam War was unfair because people were drafted at an early age and shouldn't have had to give up college to go to war. **(Dominique Haskins)**



# ODYSSEY MOMENTS

## 2012-2013





