

Unit 3/Living in America/Fighting Stereotypes

Hurston, Zora Neale, "How it feels to be colored me"

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Other sources:

[http://womenshistory.about.com/od/hurstonzoraneale/p/hurston\\_bio.htm](http://womenshistory.about.com/od/hurstonzoraneale/p/hurston_bio.htm) (biography and impact)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOkICzws0p4> (Zora Neale Hurston and blues)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI0EGZ\\_9kYs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HI0EGZ_9kYs) (Reading)

- How does she describe race relationships in her town?
- How did she get colored? What does that mean?
- How does she relate to her own identity? And past? What is for you to be "tragically colored?"
- How important is cultural heritage for her?
- The text is full of images and metaphors related to identity, ethnicity, etc. Please, identify them and discuss their implications.

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Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*, "Prologue"

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Other Sources:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhvwbXKoYsY> (On Ralph Ellison and his work)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nZnPor4dg> (on the impact of Invisible Man)

- In what sense is the narrator invisible? How does he account for his invisibility? Is it him who is invisible or are the others blind?
- Please, discuss his violent attitude to the White man he encounters one night.
- Light seems essential for him, as observed in the text. Why do you think it is so?
- Do you think his home and its description are symbolic of something? Why?
- Can you relate this text to Zora Neale Hurston's?

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Chávez, César. “An Organizer’s Tale”

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Other Sources:

<http://www.biography.com/people/cesar-chavez-9245781> (biography)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIgIaI5AVpY> (on the Movimiento)

- The title of the text suggests it is a tale. However, how relevant is it from a historical point of view?
- How would you describe Chávez’s personality after Reading the text? Where does he become more personal? Why?
- Can you relate the text to the history of the Chicano Community?

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Guillermo Gómez-Peña” Documented/Undocumented”

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Other Sources:

<http://www.pochanostra.com/>

- Please, define the border as expressed by Gómez Peña.
- His text is personal, but in what sense do you think it is also political?
- Do you think it is a local or global text? Does it only talk about the US-Mexico border or is it addressing a universal, postmodern issue?
- How relevant is art for him?
- What does he think of definitions and characterizations?

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Michele Serros, How to be a Chicana Role Model

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Other Sources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=460Pt2swD8Y> (conversation with Ilan Stavans)

<http://www.muchamichele.com/>

- The text is fresh, funny and ironic. What do you think the autor, and the situation described is trying to “laugh” at?
- How does the text address the concept of “stereotype”, “role model”, etc?
- How relevant is linguistic identity for her? And for the Chicana writers?
- How contemporary and/or global do you think the text is?

## LeAnne Howe and Roxy Gordon” Indian Radio Days”

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### Other Sources:

<http://nwindian.evergreen.edu/curriculum/Stereotypes.pdf> (On Native American Stereotypes)

<http://www.nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/218/> (on Native American Stereotypes in film)

- What are the main themes of the theatre play?
- How contemporary do you think the play is?
- How does it relate tradition/history and contemporary Native-American life?
- How does it account for Native-American identity?
- Do you think the play serves as a reinterpretation of Native-American and White American history? Discuss.
- How important is the form for the development of the themes?
- Did you learn anything new about Native-American life?