

HISP@CKM

HISP 11 Literature Summer Reading 2021

Downey/Gatten

Summer Reading Assignment: You will read the novel *There There* by Tommy Orange.

Annotate as you read: Look for details that are interesting, troubling, or connect to prior knowledge. Highlight the writing and include a brief margin note. We are including pictures of sample annotations as a guide. Please note: quality annotation does NOT mean over-highlighting the novel. Limit yourself to (on average) about one highlight per three pages. This a rough estimate – meaning, there may parts of the novel with several annotations (1 or 2 per page) and other parts of the novel with fewer annotations. What we are looking for is thoughtful, active reading from beginning to end.

Back-to-school In-Class Assignments: During the first week of school we will spend the first two days discussing the content of the novel and its connection to our American Literature curriculum. *During the second week of school, you will use your class discussion notes and your personal annotations in the novel to compose an in-class essay reflecting on one of the central themes of the novel.* We will also collect your annotated novels on the day that we write our in-class essay.

How to use the prompt: We are including a copy of the in-class essay prompt. Use this as a sneak peek at the main focus of our discussion when we return to school. Though optional, you are also encouraged to use the prompt as a reading guide to give you some focus as you read (especially if you tend to over-annotate). A copy of the prompt follows:

The novel, *There There* by Tommy Orange raises many uncomfortable questions - few of which have easy answers. The stories written by Orange explore what it means to be Native American in contemporary America, living a contemporary life while inheriting generations of cyclical trauma. His characters move forward in time while a history of crushing loss is ever at their shoulder.

**On page 38, Dene Oxendene thinks about the origin of the phrase “there there” in reference to a Gertrude Stein quote lamenting the loss of her childhood home, “that the there of her childhood, the there there, was gone, there was no there there anymore.”

**On page 51, Opal Bear Shield’s teddy bear tells her “You gotta know about the history of your people. How you got to be here, that’s all based on what people done to get you here.”

**At the beginning of Part III, Orange cites the famous American writer, James Baldwin. Baldwin said, “People are trapped in history, and history is trapped in them.”

These quotes and passages highlight a critical theme in Orange’s novel: historical trauma begets a vicious and enduring cycle of generational trauma impacting communities, families, and individuals. Choose one character from *There There* as the focus of your essay. How is their personal identity - or search for personal identity - connected to this theme?

If you get stuck and have questions, email one of the teachers:

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Have a great summer and happy reading!