

Race 5 Coates, The Case for Reparations Part 2

Please read pages 27-56 of Coates's essay "The Case for Reparations." Consider the following questions as you read:

1. Why were Bill and Daisy Myers unwelcome in Levittown? Why would their race affect property values in this way?
2. How did the federal government help create segregated white neighborhoods?
3. How did white Chicagoans seek to ensure racial segregation of the city?
4. What practice is called a form of "American piracy" on page 37? What is American piracy and why might someone think of it as a fact of nature?
5. What does Coates mean when uses the term "plunder?"
6. Why were respectable Black people who aspired to rise to the middle class especially targeted for plunder?
7. What message does a young Black boy receive from his country, according to Billy Brooks?
8. How would taking the idea of reparations threaten to seriously change how we think about American history?
9. What lessons does the German and Israeli experience with reparations suggest to you?
10. How did the legacy of housing discrimination help make Black people among the worst hit groups in the financial crisis of 2008?