



EXPLORING & CONFRONTING OUR RACISM

As we remember incidents of police brutality and the killings of Oscar Grant, George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, it's worth reevaluating how the media we view has perpetuated racist stereotypes and historical inaccuracies while claiming to take on racism.

We can't keep sweeping issues of racism in America under the rug.
Do Black lives really matter?
It is time to confront our beliefs about racism.

Our third discussion this season will focus on *To Kill a Mockingbird* & *Hidden Figures* on Thursday, January 27, 2022

Cast Information for To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

- Tom Robinson – accused of raping a white girl
- Atticus Finch – defense lawyer for Tom Robinson
- Scout Finch – daughter of Atticus
- Jem Finch – Scout's older brother
- Calpurnia Coleman – Atticus's housekeeper
- Dill Harris – summer friend of Scout and Jem visiting from Mississippi
- Boo Radley - reclusive and mysterious neighbor of Scout and Jem
- Bob Ewell – father of alleged rape victim
- Mayella Ewell – accused Tom Robinson of rape
- Mr. Gilmer – prosecutor going against Atticus
- Gilmer Tate – Sheriff (first witness for the prosecutor)

Cast Information for Hidden Figures (2016)

- Katherine (Goble) Johnson - was the Mathematician.
- Dorothy Vaughn - was the head of the West Computing Group
- Mary Jackson - was assigned to the aerodynamics department.
- Al Harrison - was Head of the Space Task Group at Langley Research Center
- Paul Stafford – Lead Engineer at Langley (didn't like that Katherine checked his math)
- Vivian Mitchell – Supervisor (had blond hair/played by Kirsten Dunst)
- Ruth – Al Harrison's assistant (red hair)

Fill in the blanks:

<u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u>	<u>Hidden Figures</u>
Setting Date & Location –	Setting Date & Location -
Plot/Summary –	Plot/Summary -
Protagonist –	Protagonist –
Antagonist –	Antagonist –
White Savior –	White Savior –
Which white character was Redeemed/Transformed –	Which white character was Redeemed/Transformed –

1. **Now that you have viewed the movie, what do you think the title *To Kill a Mockingbird* or *Hidden Figures* means?**

2. **How are the lead black characters portrayed in the movie? Describe their social, economic and or health status.**

3. **How are the lead white characters portrayed in the movie? Describe their social, economic and/or health status.**

4. Describe some of the numerous complex issues occurring throughout the movie.

5. **There are monumental moments in the movies when the words of Black characters showed their humanity and evoked powerful emotions.**
 - a. **In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Tom said that he felt sorry for Mayella. Why do you think that Atticus's facial expressions changed so drastically?**

 - b. **In *Hidden Figures*, Mary Jackson finally had her day in court in Virginia to request that she be allowed to attend Hampton High School for a class she needed to be an engineer. What did she say to the judge that helped her case?**

6. What did whites do to "liberate" Blacks in the movie?

7. Describe the moment/incident when white characters were redeemed/transformed in the movies?

8. **Are white savior films racist? Why or why not? What does a movie director need to do so that actions of characters such as Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird* or Al Harrison in *Hidden Figures* don't get downplayed?**