

A Read on the Rebellion (one-sheet)

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Synopsis: The narrator is attending college in LA when the Rodney King riots break out. The riots pose a real threat to the narrator and he walks with a baseball cap on to hide his light skin. One night, he is walking his dog when he witnesses a drive-by shooting. He hides in the bushes, fearful he will be shot too. On his way home, the narrator sees a black woman working on her car and warns her about the shooting. Like a frustrated mother, she scolds the shooters, saying they shouldn't be doing that. Before he walks away, the woman blesses the narrator and requests he do the same back to her. Not a religious man, the narrator is taken by something about the woman, and blesses her back. He continues on his way home.



Vocabulary

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| 1. agonize | 5. vile |
| 2. abutted | 6. devout |
| 3. affluent | 7. working class |
| 4. alight | 8. Rodney King Riots |

Pre reading writing prompt

Think of someone — from a book, movie, or real life — and “take a walk” in their neighborhood. You can walk as far or as little as you want. You can interact and talk with people, creatures, and spirits you encounter... or you may choose to be pensive, silent, and brooding. Whether the neighborhood is serene, sinister, boring, or whimsical... use *rich* language to describe what your five senses take in.

Post reading discussion questions (class wide or in pairs)

1. Describe the narrator in three words.
2. If the city were a character in this story, would it be a protagonist or antagonist?
3. What does the narrator mean by, “I’m not religious, but for that moment I was a devout Christian, blessed by a black woman who had more heart than I ever had in my life.”

Post reading writing reflection:

1. Agree or disagree. The world would be a happier place if every neighborhood/community was more or less the same — we all dressed the same, ate the same foods, and had access to the same hospitals/schools.

Post reading narrative:

“A Read on the Rebellion” tells a personal narrative that is intertwined with historical fact. Spend a moment thinking about a *big* event, and where you were when it happened. Note: This big event does not have to be a recognizable headline. It can be about winning the championship with your team, a tough time you went through with a friend, etc. Take some time to select your “moment.” After you pick your memorable moment, select one of the two options below...

Option 1: Write a “time stamp” narrative that tells the story of your moment in 4 distinct chapters labeled: 8AM, 12PM, 4PM, 8PM. Be sure to include how the story grows or changes over the course of the day, and what new discoveries or information you receive as your day progresses amidst your memorable moment.

Option 2: Tell the story of your memorable moment from the unique perspective of another person. You may include yourself as a character in the story, so long as the narrator is not you. (Consider taking the perspective of a family member, a person closely related to the event, or even a furry friend like a pet cat or dog!)