

Class #4 Question Sheet

Wendy's questions about "Circling the Daughter" p. 240 by Etheridge Knight

1. How do you interpret this title?
2. What does this father want his daughter to know?
3. What's going on with the couplets?
4. Consider how Knight uses imagery and sound in the poem.

Wendy's questions about "The Bones of My Father" p. 77-78 by Etheridge Knight

1. Coming from Mississippi, critics have said that Knight can easily shift the appropriate voice speaking to a black and white audience. To whom is this poem directed?
2. Knight uses vivid imagery to move the reader through a variety of environments. What are your thoughts about that imagery?
3. What is the tone of the poem? Does it change as you the poem develops?

Liz's questions for "Incident" by Countee Cullen (download from class web site)

1. What gives this poem its power?
2. What role do the rhythm and the rhyme of the poem play in communicating the poem's message?
3. Is there anything universal about this poem, or is it strictly about the Black experience in America?
4. Why title this poem "Incident"?

Liz's questions for "Fourteen" by James A. Emanuel. Pg. 235

1. Where is this boy, in space and time? Why is the setting important?
 2. How does the change in imagery in each stanza move the poem and its meaning forward?
 3. Compare the poet's attitude toward this boy with the boy's attitude toward himself.
 4. Compare "Fourteen" with "Tune for a Teenage Niece" (p. 193) a poem we discussed in class #2. What are the differences/similarities in mood? in message? in poetic style?
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