

## **APPENDIX I**

### **BIOGRAPHY OF TA-NEHISI COATES**

Ta-Nehisi Coates was born September 30 1975 he is a national correspondent for The Atlantic and the author of the memoir *The Beautiful Struggle*. Coates has received the National Magazine Award, the Hillman Prize for Opinion and Analysis Journalism, and the George Polk Award for his Atlantic cover story "The Case for Reparations." He lives in New York with his wife and son. Ta-Nehisi Coates is an American author and journalist. He gained a wide readership during his time as national correspondent at The Atlantic, where he wrote about cultural, social, and political issues, particularly regarding African Americans and white supremacy. Coates has worked for The Village Voice, Washington City Paper, and Time. He has contributed to The New York Times Magazine, The Washington Post, The Washington Monthly, O, and other publications. He has published three non-fiction books: *The Beautiful Struggle*, *Between the World and Me*, and *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy*. *Between the World and Me* won the 2015 National Book Award for Nonfiction. He has also written a Black Panther series and a Captain America series for Marvel Comics. His first novel, *The Water Dancer*, was published in 2019. In 2015 he received a Genius Grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

## **APPENDIX II**

### **SUMMARY *BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME***

*Between the World and Me* contains letters written by Ta-Nehisi Coates to his 15-year-old son. In his ruminations on what it means to live as a black man in America, he interweaves his personal, historical and intellectual development. Coates describes his youth in the Baltimore ghetto, where he learned how to survive. Coates' father was strict with him, but he now realizes that black parents often do this to protect their children. Growing up black in Baltimore usually meant being poor, disenfranchised, and trying to prove one's humanity. People on street corners used their arrogance and violence as a form of self-defense and a statement of their humanity. Coates believed that education and religion was pointless when he was younger, but he persisted in his studies so that he could enroll in Howard University. He experienced an intellectual awakening while studying black writers and black history and marveling at the diversity of black students at Howard. When he was a student at Howard, he learned of the passing of Prince Jones, a classmate. Prince was a wealthy, attractive, and charismatic black man who was murdered by police. Coates had extreme rage, disillusionment, and resentment in the wake of Prince's passing. Even coming from a wealthy background could not save a person black bodies had no worth in America and could be eliminated at will. Coates claims that because the cop was a clear representation of American values, it was not even simply that officer who killed Prince.

Coates talks directly to his kid about the difficulties of growing up as a young black boy, including the need to be "twice as good" and accept responsibility for the behaviour of other black people, the need to be aware of and adhere to "the rules," and the need to struggle more than anyone else. Although he is aware that his son's experiences of growing up and being black are different from his own, the stark reality is that being a black person in America is dangerous. His inability to intervene for his son or make things better hurts him; having to always strive to be "below" one's country is incredibly frustrating.

In his final, he describes his meeting with Prince Jones' mother, Dr. Mabel Jones. He is astounded by her strength and grace as he listens to her life

tale, but he also learns that she is burdened by the knowledge that her country abandoned, murdered, and forgot about her son. Coates comes to the conclusion that there is little probability that the Dreamers will become conscious. As they continue to pillage black bodies, the Dreamers continue to plunder the environment. There will be a day of reckoning, but there is no point in hoping for it because everyone will share in what the Dreamers sow. Because that is what they have, black people must celebrate and find joy in their community. Although the struggle is difficult, it gives life significance.