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I SUBSTITUTE FOR THE DEAD LECTURER

SCRAPS FROM AN EXHIBITION

American Literature Class

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by Alfred Carol

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What is most precious, because it is lost. What is lost, because it is most precious.

3

**They have turned, and say that I am dying. That
I have thrown
my life
away. They**

"Il n'y a pas un combat culturel qui se développerait
latéralement au combat populaire"

-Franz Fanon, 1960

"It is out of being "more than a writer" that many black
men and women in South Africa begin to write."

-Nadine Gordimer

4

away. They
have left me, alone, where
there is no one, nothing

"If you are not part of the solution you are part of the
problem"

*-Elridge Cleaver (Black Panthers minister of
information)*

5

there is no one, nothing
save who I am. Not a note
nor a word.

"It is this individual uncertainty on the part of white Americans, this inability to renew themselves at the fountain of their own lives, that makes the discussion, let alone elucidation, of any conundrum -that is, any reality- so supremely difficult."

-James Baldwin (the Fire Next Time)

Cold air batters

the poor (and their minds)

"A qui fera-t-on croire que tous les hommes, je dis tous, sans privilège, sans sans particulière exonération, ont connu la déportation, la traite, l'esclavage, le collectif ravalement à la bête, le total outrage, la vaste insulte, que tous ils ont reçu, plaqué sur leur corps, au visage, l'omni-niant crachat! Nous seuls, Madame, vous m'entendez, nous seuls les nègres!"

-Aimé Césaire (from "La tragédie du roi Christophe")

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the poor (and their minds
turn open
like sores). What kindness

"Philosophers have just interpreted the world in
different ways, what really matters is to make it
change."

-Karl Marx (XI proposition on Feurbach), 1848

8

**What wealth
can I offer? Except
what is, for me,
ugliest. What is**

9

ugliest. What is
for me, shadows, shrieking
phantoms. Except

"In the USA, only 11.1% of the population are blacks, which we should consider as an oppressed nation since the equality conquered at the end of the Civil War and granted by the Constitution has been, in fact, more and more restrained in the states populated by blacks, specially the South."

-Lenin

"Leninism, has destroyed the wall separating blacks from whites, Europeans from Asiatics, 'civilized' slaves from 'non civilized' slaves."

-Stalin, 1924

10**they have need****of life. Flesh**

"¡Ay Harlem! ¡Ay Harlem! ¡Ay Harlem!

¡No hay angustia comparable a tus rojos oprimidos,
a tu sangre estremecida dentro del eclipse oscuro,
a tu violencia granate sordomuda en la penumbra,
a tu gran rey prisionero con un traje de conserje!

-Federico García Lorca (El rey de Harlem)

11

of life. Flesh

at least,

should be theirs.

12

**The Lord has saved me
to do this. The Lord
has made me strong. I**

"Muhammad Ali is, in the context of boxing, a genuine
revolutionary, the black Fidel Castro of boxing"

*-Elridge Cleaver (Black Panthers minister of
information)*

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has made me strong. I

am as I must have

myself. Against all

"Sobre sus leones los guerreros del Islam,
tu que estás mirando, verás que están al acecho"

-Alhambra, main fountain border

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myself. Against all
thought, all music, all
my soft loves.

"Whites...shift the burden of the negro problem to
Negro's shoulders and stand aside as critical and rather
pessimistic spectators; when in fact the burden belongs
to the nation."

-W.E.B. DuBois

"How take on the guilt
of slavery? How shudder like one who made
money from buying a people..."

-James Dickey (Slave Quarters)

"Gandhy was a big dark elephant sitting on a little
white mouse. King was a little black mouse sitting on
top of a big white elephant."

-Malcom X (Black Muslims spokesman)

15**For all these wan roads****I am pushed to follow, are****my own conceit. A simple muttering**

16

**my own conceit. A simple muttering
elegance, slipped in my head
pressed on my soul, is my heart's**

pressed on my soul, is my heart's
worth. And I am frightened

"We strongly support the legitimate fight conducted in the USA by students and Afro-American people against the ruling class of their country."

-Lin Piao, 1969

"Hell no, we won't go!"

-SNCC (*Students Nonviolent Comitee against Conscription, Viet-Nam war*)

Poems are bullshit unless they are
teeth or trees or lemons piled
on a step...

..we want "poems that kill".

Assassin poems. Poems that shoot
guns.

-Imamu Amiri Baraka

"If he only understands the language of a rifle, get a rifle. If he only understands the language of a rope, get a rope. But don't waste time talking the wrong language to a man if you really want to comunicate with him."

-Malcom X (*Black Muslims spokesman*)

"We aint got to prove we can die
we got to prove we can kill..."

-Nikki Giovanni

18

**that the flame of my sickness
will burn my face. And leave
the bones, my stewed black skull,**

the bones, my stewed black skull,
an empty cage of failure.

IMAMU AMIRI BARAKA

"He told us that our tribe was not alone. There was a whole family of tribes and that family was called "La nation Congolaise". All must be brothers; there lies the strength. He spoke for a long time until night fell and the darkness came. You couldn't see anything except this man's words. Those words were bright. We could see them distinctly.

He asked, "any questions?"

It was quiet. Finally somebody cried out, "You! What's your name? "Me?" The man laughed. "My name is Lumumba, *Patrice Lumumba.*"