

APPENDICES

Synopsis of And All Our Wounds Forgiven

John Calvin Marshall is a charismatic civil rights movement leader. He is a fresh graduate of Harvard and he accepts an offer to teach at Spelman College. However, when he realizes that his destiny is not in teaching, he refuses the offer and joins a civil rights movement.

As a black leader of the movement, he has a white assistant named Lisa Adam, who also becomes his mistress. His charm as a charismatic man not only attracts Lisa but also attracts important figures such as LBJ, JFK, and Malcolm X. He has harmonious relationships with many influential people. Such relations can be a good impact for his struggle to get legal recognition for his race.

He realizes that to be free, black people need legal recognition to prove that their position is equal to white people. That is why he concentrates on getting legal equality. Even though he is killed in the middle of his struggle and he has not achieved his goal he gets social recognition. He is recognised as an influential black man by having his picture on postage stamps and a national holiday to commemorate him.

Synopsis of Black Boy

Black Boy is an autobiographical novel of Richard Wright. The book tells about his childhood till the age of 26. Being a poor Southerner in 1960s makes his childhood miserable.

His father has left him and his uneducated mom is too busy to give enough attention to Richard. Feeling abandoned and deprived, Richard grows up to be a stubborn and rebellious boy. He experiences sporadic schooling due to the constant moving in order to avoid poverty. Being poor and abandoned does not keep him from being a critical boy. He starts and stops school often and soon realizes that he could teach himself through reading proper books.

Desperate about the harsh racial condition in the South, Richard makes a decision to move to the North. In Chicago, Richard continues to struggle with racism, segregation, and poverty.

His move to the North opens his eyes, and he starts to be concerned about humanity. He realizes that he is not the only one who suffers. He and many other blacks suffer because of discrimination. This is his turning point in life. He decides to use his writing skill to make people aware about his race's suffering. Through writing, he tries to get social recognition for blacks. He successfully obtains his social recognition by the publication, purchase, and banning of his book.

Biography of Julius Lester

Julius Bernard Lester is an award winning American author of books for children and adults. He was born in St. Louis, Missouri on 27 January 1939. In 1960 he received his BA from Fisk University.

In the early 1960s, Lester became an activist in a civil rights movement as a folk singer. He also worked as a full timer in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee. He has written 45 books for children and adults which deals with race relations. Some of his books are Look Out, Whitey! Black Powers Gon' Get Your Mama! and And All Our Wounds Forgiven.

Biography of Richard Wright

Wright was born in Roxie, Mississippi on 4 September 1908. He was the grandson of former slaves. Wright's family moved to Memphis, Tennessee. While in Memphis, his father, Nathaniel, a former sharecropper, abandoned them. Wright, his brother, and mother Ella, a schoolteacher, moved to Jackson, Mississippi, to live with relatives.

Feeling depressed about racial conditions, he moved to Chicago, where he began to write and became active in the John Reed Clubs. In 1939 he met Ellen Poplar, a white Polish-Jewish Communist Party member, who became his first wife. He moved to New York City to become the Harlem editor of the Daily Worker, a communist newspaper, also contributing to the New Masses magazine.

Wright first gained attention for Uncle Tom's Children. He followed with a novel, Native Son, the first Book of the Month Club recommendation by an African American author.

Wright is also renowned for the autobiographical Black Boy (1945), which describes his early life from Roxie through his move to Chicago, his difficulties with white employers and racial condition. He died in Paris in November 1960.