

# CULTURE KEEPERS MINI LESSONS



BY: SYNATRA SMITH, PH.D.

## Power and Identity in Gentrification

### 1. Discussion questions:

- a. Gentrification comes from the word “gentry;” in what ways can gentry be defined? Can people of color be considered members of the gentry in America? Why or why not?
- b. How do people of color negotiate between reclaiming Black and Latinx neighborhoods and participating in the hipsterfication of these towns that finds nuanced ways to exclude people of color while claiming liberalism?
- c. How are people of color responsibly upwardly mobile without becoming guilty of the very ideas against which these communities are fighting through the acquisition of education and privilege?

### 2. Resources

- a. Confessions of a Black Gentrifier by Shani O. Hilton
- b. The Black Metropolis in the Twenty-first Century: Race, Power, and Politics of Place, Chapter 4 - Dilemma of Place and Suburbanization of the Black Middle Class by Sheryll Cashin (2007)

For more information please contact:

Synatra Smith, Ph.D. [ssmith@pgaamcc.org](mailto:ssmith@pgaamcc.org) (301) 809-0440 ext. 104

# CULTURE KEEPERS MINI LESSONS



BY: SYNATRA SMITH, PH.D.

## Other Chocolate Cities Lessons

1. The FX Series Atlanta presents a nuanced view of young Black male adulthood in Atlanta, GA. This lesson explores the notion of Atlanta as a Black Mecca, to which it is often referred, and interrogates the gaze as a show that presents a Black male perspective for black male (and other) consumption.
2. The Netflix series Marvel's Luke Cage tells the story of a bulletproof Black superhero living in Harlem. This lesson discusses such topics as respectability politics, African American culture as it relates to the Harlem Renaissance and Hip Hop, gender, and violence. It explores the question, "Why is a hoodie dawning, bullet-proof, uber strong, Black superhero significant to the Black community today? What kinds of opportunities and/or challenges does such a hero raise for the Black community?"
3. The "LA to the Bay" lesson explores a variety of media produced around issues in Los Angeles, CA and the San Francisco Bay Area. It includes an examination of Frank Ocean's musical commentary of the Ladera Heights community, which he calls the "Black Beverly Hills," the 2015 coming of age film Dope and its commentary on aesthetic and intersectionality, and a BuzzFeed video the presents gentrification in San Francisco and the relationship between communities of color and and the technology industry.
4. The New Orleans lesson exists in two parts. Part 1 presents Beyonce's Formation music video and other performances of music from her Lemonade album as not only a presentation of Black southern femininity, but also Afro-syncretic religions.
5. The New Orleans Lesson Part 2 places Solange's A Seat at the Table album in conversation with the OWN series Queen Sugar, executive produced by Oscar-award winning filmmaker, Ava DuVernay. Both of these segments discuss African American resilience and encourage students to incorporate self-empowerment into their own work.

For more information please contact:

Synatra Smith, Ph.D. [ssmith@pgaamcc.org](mailto:ssmith@pgaamcc.org) (301) 809-0440 ext. 104