

PAGES The Reading Group

Book Title: *The Water Dancer* by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Meeting Date: 21 December 2020

Agenda

- Welcome/Intros
- #BetterDialogue w/ Dr. Justin Clardy
- Discussion of *The Water Dancer*
- Announcements
- #BetterDialogue volunteers for January meeting?

#BetterDialogue w/ Dr. Justin Clardy

- Conduction and the power of memory
- Hiram's POV
- Ethics and Morality in *The Water Dancer*

Some shxt to think about:

1. How did you feel about the inclusion of a real historical figure such as Harriet Tubman in the book and what impact did it have on you?
2. How does Hiram define "family"?
3. Think about the quote from Hiram about the "tasked" when he says that the tasked are "Blessed, for we do not bear the weight of pretending pure." How does Coates explore morality throughout the book? How do the characters' notion of morality differ? (i.e. Hiram, Corrine, Sophia, etc.?)
4. Characters like Corrine risk their lives to work for the Underground, while simultaneously allowing folks like Hiram and others to undergo harm for the greater good of the organization. What is Coates saying about the relationship between whites and racial justice here?
5. What is Coates suggesting by tethering the power of Conduction to memories and the act of remembering? What is the significance of Hiram not being able to conjure up certain memories?

Notes:

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