

Global Literacies & Advanced Composition
The Other Wes Moore

As part of your introduction to Global Literacies experience, you are to read the memoir *The Other Wes Moore* by Wes Moore as a summer reading text. This powerful work tells the stories of two men—both named Wes Moore—who were born and for a short time raised within just miles of one another. The one Wes Moore—the author—enjoys a life that, by every measure, would be considered successful. The other Wes Moore—whom the author interviews and befriends—makes a series of youthful decisions that, although seemingly inconsequential at the time, ultimately land him in prison for life.

Read the memoir carefully, and then follow the directions for **two** exercises below. Your work on these exercises will be collected on the second day of your return to school. You should answer these questions on separate sheets of paper.

Exercise I. Check for Understanding

As you read *The Other Wes Moore*, answer the questions below. Be sure that you treat this assignment as you would another school text. Work independently, please: you should adhere to LFA expectations for academic honesty and integrity. Also, be as complete as you can be in your answers, using additional pages as needed. You will use your responses as you work with the novel when you return to school.

1. How does Author Wes Moore describe the neighborhood his was born into? Name five aspects Wes Moore mentions help describe the Baltimore neighborhood he first grew up in.
 - A)
 - B)
 - C)
 - D)
 - E)
2. How old is Wes Moore when he moves from Baltimore and where does his family go?
3. Author Wes Moore attended _____ for high school in Pennsylvania.
4. His grandparents' immigrated from _____, before he and his immediate family resettled with them in _____.
5. Briefly describe the relationship each Wes Moore had or did not have with their respective fathers. Include the circumstances of the disappearance of their fathers from their lives.
6. Author Wes Moore was struck by _____ as a child, after he hit his _____.
7. How does Author Wes Moore describe the feeling of his mother's and his father's hand?
8. What type of music is Wes Moore able to memorize while struggling to stay engaged and earn good grades in middle school? How does he describe its impact on him and his generational peers?

9. How did Author Wes Moore's mother respond to his struggles in school?
10. How did she respond to his phone call asking to come home from boarding school he was attending later on in the story?
11. Explain how the Job Corps and the Rhodes' Scholarship opportunities are pivotal moments for the two Wes Moores.
12. Explain how the fistfight in the Baltimore neighborhood and drive-by-rock-throwing incident near the boarding school are pivotal moments for the two Wes Moores.
13. Explain how the respective encounters each Wes Moore had with police officers proved to be significant turning points regarding the trajectory of their respective lives.
14. What was the topic or theme of the conversation Author Wes Moore shared with his South African host mother? What did he say to her and what was her response.
15. What or who did the boy Author Wes Moore encountered on the streets of Johannesburg remind him of?
16. What roles did the two Wes Moores respective mothers and siblings play in their coming-of-age development?
17. What did the two Wes Moores discuss in the prison visiting room late in the memoir? What final they exchange about the role their father's played in their own life circumstances and choices?
18. Explain or posit what you believe the purpose of the addendum of listed 'community organizations' serves as a closing "Part IV" to the memoir?

Exercise II. Journal Entry

As a student in Global Literacies & Advanced Composition, you will be keeping a reading/writing journal throughout the year. It will be a place to reflect on your reading, develop ideas, draw, and write creatively.

Start your journal this summer. You can choose a notebook that you like, or just use some pages that you will keep in a folder somewhere. The form is totally up to you.

For your first entry, consider the following questions, and draft a response to them once you have finished reading *The Other Wes Moore*. In your responses, use specific, detailed examples drawn from the experiences of the two Wes Moores, as well as your own personal experience, the experience of fictional/historical characters you know well, current events.

To what degree do you think individuals have free will? What factors might constrain free will? Is there always a way to "beat the odds," meaning to overcome difficulties and hardships, such as disease, poverty, racism?

What are the best ways to cope with / overcome the circumstances that an individual faces? How do a person's actions and/or decisions affect his or her own destiny and the destinies of others?