**Names of Participants:**

\*\* please use a unique text color to show where you are contributing answers

**Ta-Nehisi Coates, “The Case for Reparations”**

**Reading Quest**

**Section IV: The Ills That Slavery Frees Us From**

In the opening paragraph, how does Coates describe the origins of the U.S.?

1. Find an important quote.
2. Paraphrase the meaning in your own words.

In the early history of the U.S., what is the relationship between slaves and poor whites?

When does this relationship change?

In what ways were slaves a “financial asset”?

According to Coates, what is the “most important asset available to any people”? (Hint: this is in the last paragraph of this section)

**Response Question:** Why does Coates describe black slaves as “America’s indispensable working class”?

**Response Question:** What is the importance of contrasting “American wealth and democracy” and slavery? What is Coates’ main point?

**Section V: The Quiet Plunder**

What are THREE examples or events of “terrorism” against black Americans in the aftermath of the Civil War?

How is the New Deal usually remembered? What does Coates want to point out?

How is homeownership seen as important in Cold War America?

What is the practice of redlining? Who is responsible? (Hint: this is discussed in the last two pages of this section)

In the last paragraph, what does “fealty” mean? (Look it up!)

How does Coates describe the way the “black plunder” continues in the 20th century?

**Response Question:** Why is housing and homeownership an important example of racism? How does this help Coates make his argument?

**Section VI: Making the Second Ghetto**

In the opening paragraph, what does Coates say explains segregation in Chicago?

Why is Coates critical of “segregationist nostalgia”?

What are THREE ways in which the “virulent racism of Chicago’s white citizens” was demonstrated?

What is the traditional definition of “white flight”?

How does Coates correct the definition of “white flight”?

1. Find an important quote.
2. Paraphrase the meaning in your own words.

**Section IX: Toward a New Century**

According to Boris Bittker, how could reparations be calculated?

What is Charles Ogletree’s suggestion for reparations?

According to Coates, what does the “wealth gap” illustrate?

If Coates does NOT think the U.S. can fully repay African Americans, what does he want?

According to Coates, why is the idea of reparations “frightening” to some?

What is the main idea of the quote from President Johnson?

How does Coates finally define reparations?

1. Find an important quote.
2. Paraphrase the meaning in your own words.

What is the “revolution of the American consciousness” that Coates calls for?

**Response Question:** Why does Coates spend so much time referring to history and explaining important events?

**Response Question:** How does Coates view the power of law? Bonus: do you see any connections to Yoshino?

**Section X: “There Will Be No ‘Reparations’ From Germany”**

Why did some survivors of the Holocaust resist the idea of reparations?

According to Coates, what is the political importance of reparations in Germany?

1. Find an important quote.
2. Paraphrase the meaning in your own words.

What is the main idea of the quote from David ben-Gurion?

Who is implicated in the “crime of reparations”

Why does Coates think HR 40 is important? (Hint: remember the video you watched is the opening statement for a hearing about the HR 40 bill)

How does Coates explain the causes of the foreclosure crisis? (Go deeper than “segregation”)

**Response Question:** Why does Coates use the example of Germany and the Holocaust? Is it effective on you as a reader?

**Response Question:** What does Coates mean in the last paragraph when he says “the damage has been done”?