

# ENTRY TEST - MAY 2022 -

## AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SECTION

LYCEE ANDRE ARGOUGES  
GRENOBLE

**PART I: Reading comprehension (20 points)**

Answer the questions on a separate sheet.

(An excerpt from *Fearless Jones* by Walter Mosley, 2001)

**PART II: Writing assignment (20 points)**

Choose **ONE** subject. Write about 250 words. Use a separate sheet.

**Parts I and II shall be done in one hour and thirty minutes**

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**PART III : Aural Comprehension . (20 points)**

(about 20 minutes ; use a separate sheet)

Definition of CRT, Critical Race Theory.

## PART I: Reading comprehension (20 points)

(An excerpt from *Fearless Jones* by Walter Mosley, 2001)

**Short answers** are expected. Justify using elements from the text.

### Setting

- 1) Where and when could the story take place ? Justify. (0,5 point)

### Main character

- 2) Who tells the story? From what perspective? (1 point)
- 3) Describe the narrator's way of talking? Give examples. (0,5 point)
- 4) How would you describe the narrator's early childhood ? (1 point)

**Bonus:** What does the repetition of 'but' imply?

- 5) Based on the whole passage, how would you describe the narrator's personality ? (try to find 4 personality traits) (2 points)
- 6) What were the narrator's motivations for sitting in front of the library? (1 point)

### One terrible event

- 7) 'That event was learning to read.' Why is that statement surprising? (1 point)
- 8) Why is it indeed terrible? (2 points)

**Bonus:** The narrator reads 'There is nothing worse than the snows of May,' a passage from *Minnesota Snows*. Explain how this sentence really matches the event.

- 9) Comment on the narrator's reactions on entering the library ? (1 point)

### The librarian

- 10) When Ms Dowling first asks the narrator to prove he can read and then she leads him inside the library, what do you expect her intentions to be? (1 point)
  - 11) However what does she do? Why? (2 points)
  - 12) So, what were probably her real intentions and real feelings for coming out, checking he could read? (1 point)
  - 13) Why did she let him in? (1 point)
  - 14) Describe her personality. Imagine her conception of society. (2 points)
- (Base your answer on the way she speaks, her intentions, her beliefs and her feelings)

- 15) Why didn't she believe the narrator could read ? (1 point)
- 16) Explain the use of the word 'Olympian height'. (2 points)

**Bonus:** Link her full name 'Celestine Dowling' with her personality and what she did.

**Bonus:** What elements throughout the text could have let us guess the outcome? Justify.

Help : Jim Crow is the name of segregationist laws.

A shack : a small poorly built house.

A battle-ax : an aggressive and unpleasant woman.

## SEGREGATION

When I was a child I knew that the white people lived somewhere, but I rarely saw one in my daily routine. [...]

A lot of coloured people tell me that they hate the South ; Jim Crow and segregation made a heavy weight for the hearts. But I never felt like that. I mean, lynchings were a terrible thing... But I still loved the little shack I shared with my mother. I'd have still been there if it wasn't for one terrible event.

That event was learning to read.

I entered school at the age of six. ... On my first day I heard Miss Randolph read a story, and I knew that books were my destiny, not writing or teaching or inventing spaceships, just reading and reading and reading some more. I could pick out a simple sentence based on the knowledge of a dozen words by the end of the first week. By the age of eight I was alone in the fourth classroom, reading everything I could.

[...]

There was a library in the white part of the town ; colored people couldn't go inside. For a while I would go there and sit out in the front, on the bench they had, rereading old books like *The Hinkley Reader* and *Uncle Tom's cabin*. One day the librarian, an old-battle-axe named Celestine Dowling, came out and asked me what I was doing.

"Reading," I said proudly.

"Really," old Miss Dowling said.

"Yes'm," I replied.

"I don't believe you," she stated.

I didn't know what to reply to such a rude comment, so I sat tight and quiet.

"Read me a sentence," she ordered.

*There is nothing worse than the snows of May*, I read from a story called 'Minnesota Snows'.

Dowling frowned and said, "go on."

I read the first page and then the second. I read all the way through the story. I had read that book many times and so did not skip or stutter hardly at all.

When I was through, Miss Dowling said, "Come on with me."

She led me through the big double doors of the library into a large room that was at least twenty feet high, lined to the ceiling with shelves that were packed with neat rows of books. I remember my heart catching. I forgot how to breathe altogether.

[...]

"This is the library," the librarian said.

I nodded and gulped.

"Close your mouth, boy."

"It's beautiful," I said finally. "I never seen nuthin' like it ."

"Of course you haven't," she said. "And do you know why ?"

"Because I never been in here before ?" I asked, not understanding the question.

"No," she said from some Olympian height ?. "It's because this is a white library. And no matter how much you know how to read, these books are not meant for you. These books are written by white people for white people. This is literature and art and the way our country is and should be. There will be no library card for you, so you can stop sitting out in front. You have seen as much of this building as you ever will."

The impact of her words brought tears to my eyes. I was thirteen then, but, like I said, I've always been small. I looked up at Celestine Dowling, and she seemed pleased to see me cry.

Walter MOSLEY, *Fearless Jones*, 2001

## **PART II: Writing assignment (20 points)**

Choose **ONE** subject. Write about 250 words. Use a separate sheet.

1) The narrator rushes back home crying. Imagine the conversation with his mother.

**Or**

2) Ms Dowling wrote in her diary about the events of the day.

**Or**

3) In your opinion, why are some people cruel?

Other ideas ??:

4) After work Ms Dowling meets a friend of hers (the mayor's wife for example) and tells her about the incident.

5) How can you change the heart of a cruel person?

**Parts I and II shall be done in one hour and thirty minutes**

## **PART III : Aural Comprehension . (20 points)** **(about 20 minutes; use a separate sheet)**

You are going to listen to a 1 minute and 28 second-long document.  
You will report in French OR in English what you understood in a coherent way.

### Procedure.

You will listen to the whole document **three times** :  
a first time followed by a one-minute pause to let you take notes ;  
then a second time also followed by a one-minute pause ;  
and finally a third time followed by a ten-minute pause during which you must write your report.

### Format.

- You must present the document (type, how many people speak, in which setting, with what purpose ...).
- Then you must report what you understood using paragraphs (one set of ideas in the document corresponding to one paragraph of your report).
- Finally you can comment on the tone or the attitude of the speaker(s).

## **TITLE OF THE AUDIO DOCUMENT :** **Critical Race Theory**

Host Joy Reid invited Kimberle Crenshaw, a legal scholar who coined the phrase 'Critical Race Theory' (CRT), on her show, 'The Reidout' on MSNBC, on the 22nd of June 2021. Ms Crenshaw defines the concept.