

Dream Variations: Fictional Views of the School to Prison Pipeline

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Pre-Law Concentration

I glanced up from my hands in my lap to his angry countenance, where I could see his disdain for me clearly written. Why is he even here... I'm obviously just another paycheck for him.

"I was saying that it would be best for you to just take the plea bargain. It doesn't look good.."

Abstract

These two works of fiction will tell the story of the school to prison pipeline taken from the black and white of statistics and numbers into the colors of the individual; their thoughts, feelings, and motivations. Dream Variations is the telling of one instance in the lives of different people, both the Black American youth who go through it and the lawyers who see their cases.

Alignment with Common Theme

The shared theme this semester is Leadership, and I will be applying the theme of Leadership in my stories on how my character's take or do not take their lives into their own hands. I will also be taking the principle from Keltner's Epilogue of 'practic(ing) humility', "practi(ing) respect", and 'changing the psychological effects of powerlessness' and applying it to my character's in the stories, or how them not using it affects their power.

Topic Overview

The school to prison pipeline is a moniker for the law enforcement practices in the country that rob African American and other minorities of the ability to receive a GED from High School and move on to college because of the discriminating practices that occur within local law enforcement. Stop-and-Frisk and other such regulations lead to more strikes on records which then lead to more time spent in jail and less in school, cutting off opportunities for a more diverse post-college workforce.

Story Summaries

Night Coming Tenderly:

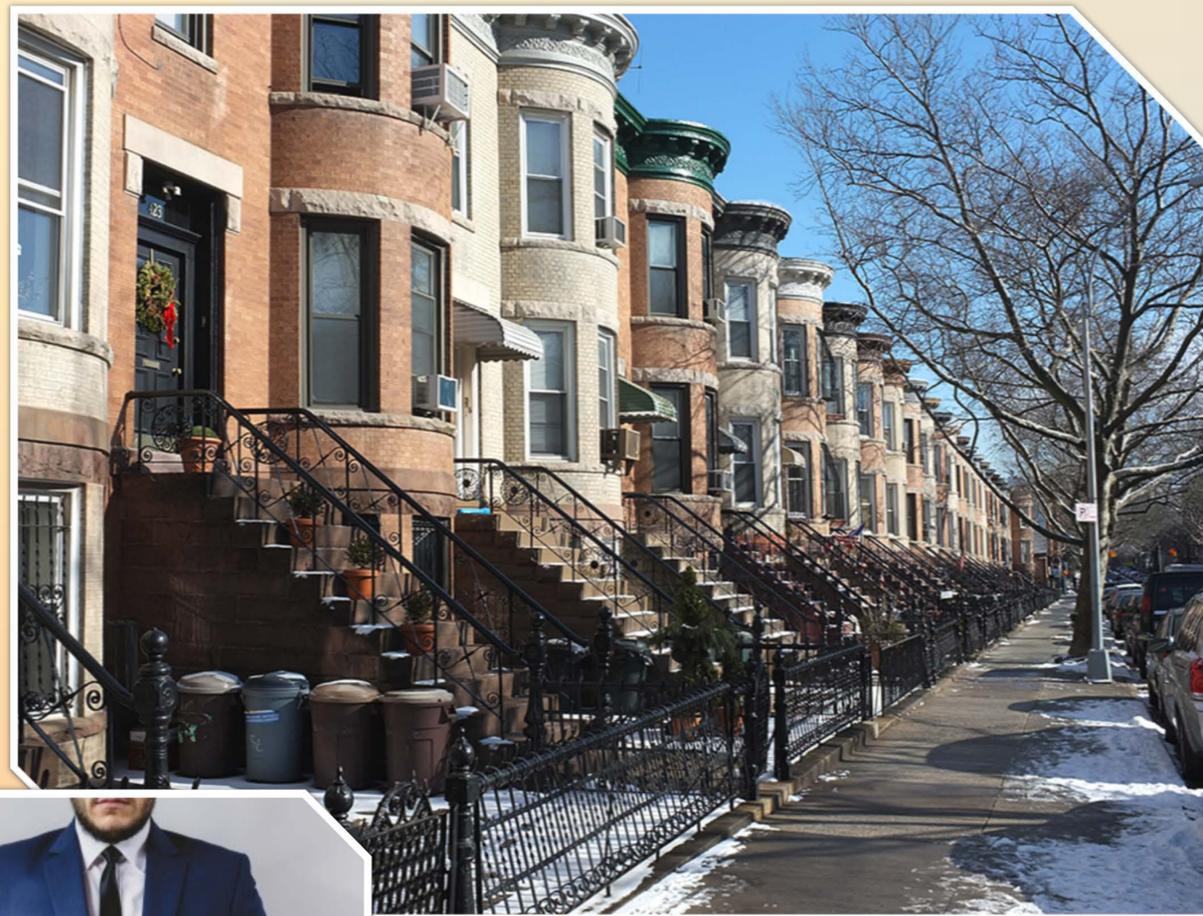
- What happened to Manny from his point of view. All of the things he saw and felt told from his eyes, and his worldview.

Some Place of the Sun:

- What the prosecution attorney sees when he receives a case like Manny's. His thoughts on what kind of person he is based on his criminal record.

Purpose (Why Fiction?)

By having a creative project, and specifically a work of fiction, I will be able to show the stories of the people effected by this issue in a way that does not only focus on the numbers and the data of this issue, but this topic as a lived human experience, and giving people a perspective that the other two options could not do as effectively or at a level I wanted it to be conveyed.



References

Alexander, Michelle. *New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Place of Publication Not Identified: New, 2016. Print.

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All pictures from google images.