



A Reflection Guide to **BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME**

By Ta-Nehisi Coates

Winner of the National Book Award

ABOUT THE BOOK:

Ta-Nehisi Coates' letter to his teenage son is a moving personal account of what it's like to be black in America.

It's also about:

- Race as the *child* of racism, not the father
- Resilience in the face of racism
- The "American Dream," including its myths, privileges, and prejudices
- The power of education for growth and awareness
- The irreplaceable value of the body, individual lives, our collective resources

This is not an easy book, but it is a powerful and important one. As Coates says: **"I hope to haunt [my readers], to trouble their sense of how things actually are."**

One thing Coates teaches is that it's okay *not* to have answers. He encourages us to face our discomfort—to sit with our questions. It's the asking and the seeking that matter most.

Let's start the conversation!

THOUGHTFUL READING AND CONVERSATIONS:

When reading this book...

- Begin with **self-reflection**.
- Be **curious** about your own response.
- **Challenge** yourself to **think deeply** about the content.
- **Examine** your reactions and assumptions.

When discussing this book...

- **Speak from your own lived experience**.
- **Ask permission** to ask questions; not everyone may want to share.
- **Respect** each other's boundaries.
- **Invite** respectful feedback.
- **Be aware** that your experience is **unique** and **valid**.
- **Remember** that *everyone's* lived experience is **unique** and **valid**.

TOOLS TO HELP YOU:

- UO Common Reading: ow.ly/ruTI300F2TP
- Reading the Book (Prof. Howard Ramsby's blog): ow.ly/e2TQ300F34y
- Coates on Questioning: ow.ly/TuGX300OFzI
- "The Conversation": ow.ly/bEIm300F3IS
- "Explaining White Privilege": ow.ly/yNfe300F3if
(Note: profanity used in this article)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Ta-Nehisi Coates at UO
School of Journalism and Communication's Ruhl Lecture
February 3, 2017

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