

The Legacy of Enslavement

Thinking about the impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade today
(English Language and Literature, Drama, History)

Ages 14+ and 16+



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Listen...

Watch this 15 minute video including a spoken word performance by Chicana, American, Muslim poet Mark Gonzales about the finding of the remains of 20,000 slaves buried on the site uncovered by the collapse of the World Trade Center on 9-11 (Quraishi, 2010).



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Mark Gonzales

Watch Gonzales piece
performed at
Genocide Memorial Day
in London, UK in 2013.

<https://youtu.be/CFbzItsNHpo>



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Think and Discuss

Three questions

1. What does Gonzales mean about reframing language?
 - What examples does the poet give of reframing language?
 - What examples of reframing language can you think of?
 - What is the difference between calling someone a slave and saying they are enslaved?



2. How does reframing apply to what the poet is talking about regarding the burial site?

- How does he feel connected those buried there?
- Is this a surprise to you? If so, why?
- How are those buried there remembered by (i) society; (ii) the poet?



3. How does the story of those slaves impact the life of the poet and the lives of people of colour today?

- Who is still impacted by the Transatlantic Slave Trade today?
- How does the poet feel impacted? Who does he say still feels the effects?
- What are these effects?



Follow up

- In small groups, research and find out about the work of organisations working on the legacy of slavery today
- In small groups compose and perform a short poem or piece of prose about the legacy of the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- Individually, write 150 – 200 words on the social impact of slavery in today's world
- Individually or in groups 'reframe' a phrase or term to do with slavery. Discuss what impact that has on the meaning of the term?

Bibliography

- Quraishi, Jen. (2010) Ground Zero's Slave Graves, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2010/08/ground-zero-was-built-graves-slaves/>
- Small, Stephen and Hira, Sandew. (2014) [20 Questions and Answers about Dutch Slavery and its Legacy](#), Amrit
- Nimako, Kwame and Willemsen, Glen (2011) The Dutch Atlantic: Slavery, Emancipation and Liberation, Pluto.

