StoryMakers

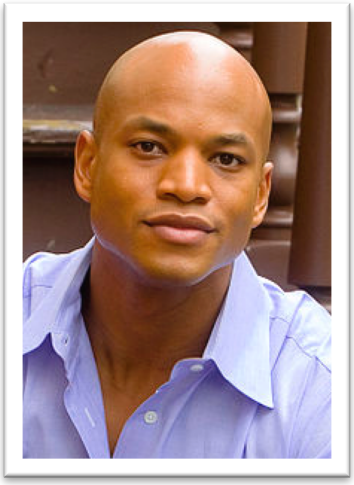
Discovering Wes Moore

A Student Viewing Guide

This student viewing guide is designed for students in eighth through twelfth grade. It is assumed that teachers will adapt each activity to fit the needs and abilities of their own students.

This Viewing Guide focuses on "listening and observing" questions which relate directly to the KidLit TV episode and are designed to engage students through the viewing of the episode of study through comprehension and prediction questions, and one or two written activities.

All activities were created in conjunction with the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts in Speaking and Listening and other relevant content standards.



Wes Moore is an education advocate, veteran, Rhodes Scholar, and New York Times bestselling author of *The Other Wes Moore* and *Discovering Wes Moore,* the accessible version for younger audiences which was requested by teachers.

This Way Home is Wes Moore's first young adult work of fiction, with Shawn Goodman. The book is set in Baltimore, which has been in the news most recently due to several protests in response to police brutality. Elijah and his friends live for basketball but a street gang threatens to take that all away if the team doesn't rep their colors. What happens if they don't give in? What happens when a community takes a stand?

Watch this episode to learn more about Wes' books, what he is doing to further his service mission as a veteran, and how he's making attending college a bit easier for young people in Maryland.

Storymakers episode available at:

http://kidlit.tv/2016/01/storymakers-discovering-wes-moore/

Standby

Before Viewing

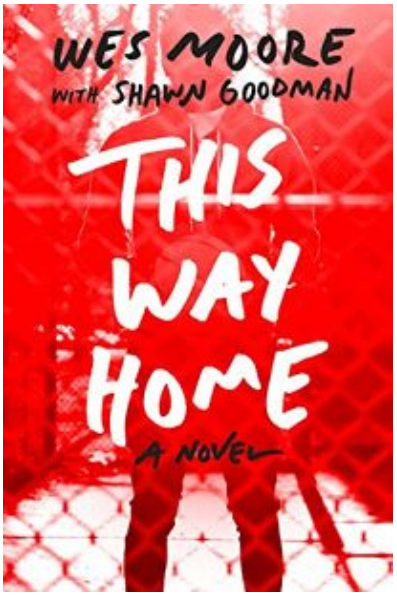
You are about to watch an interview with author Wes Moore.

- Are you familiar with any of Wes Moore's books? If so, which and what do you remember about them?
- Look closely at the cover of *This Way Home.* Describe what you see. Can you predict what this book might be about?
- List at least five questions that you have about this novel after looking at the cover.

Lights, Camera…

While You (and Your Class) Watch

Your focus during the viewing of the video should be on listening and observing as much as possible. Do not write anything down. Use your memory only.



Once the first viewing is done:

- Write down something you remember from the video. It can be a statement, a piece of information, or a visual.
- Share what you wrote with the class.
    - Did anyone share the same thing?
    - Why did this particular bit of information stand out to you?

<u>Test Your Memory</u>

- What color shirt is Wes Moore wearing in the video?
- What color bowtie is Rocco wearing in the video?
- Wes appeared on the cover of what magazine? Why?
- What two books are on the table between Rocco and Wes?
- Name Wes Moore's organization.
    - What is the website for the organization?
    - What does this organization do?
- Summarize *The Other Wes Moore* in your own words.
- Which city serves as the setting for many of Wes Moore's books?
- Name the young protagonist in *This Way Home*.
- Explain what Wes means when he says that the main character in *This Way Home* is a 'composite.'
- What iconic author's work is *This Way Home* compared to?
- Who is the co-author of *This Way Home*?
    - How did Wes meet his co-author?
- In your own words, explain what is meant by ONE of the following quotes:
    - "Sometimes the dream is more important than the thing itself."
    - "You cannot hit an object that you can't see."
- What do you think is the significance of the chain link fence image used throughout *This Way Home*?

How did you do?

Now, watch the video a second time. Put the questions to the side and do not look at them, but take notes during the viewing.

Do the Test Your Memory questions again.

- How do you do this time?

- Look over your notes.
- What did you jot down in your notes this time that was not in the questions? Why did you find that particular information note-worthy?

Action!

After Viewing Acitivites

Further More—Additional Research and Questions

- Visit http://www.theotherwesmoore.com for further research.
- If you could interview Wes Moore what is one question you would ask?
- Compile your questions and send them to Wes via his Twitter feed at @WesMoore1. Be sure to use #kidlittv in your Tweet.

The Other Me

The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates is the story of two kids named Wes Moore who were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? The book sets out to answer this profound question.

Imagine that there is another person, living near where you live, that has the same name as you, but has taken a very different path in life. In fact, their life turns out quite opposite of yours.

Fast forward ten years.

Write a diary entry about your life and where you see yourself ten years into the future. Use your actual goals and dreams for inspiration.

Next, write a separate diary entry about the other you and what their life is like ten years into the future. What decisions do they make differently than you that alter their course?

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