October 13, 2014

Absent: Herriott

Nick Wright: Hypocritical—he mocks people who pamper their dogs, but he does the same.

* Mitch Poch: Towards the end, he says that he wants his OTR, but he wants others to have theirs. He wants a balance.
* Liam: He doesn’t want *just* a dog park. NAACP complaints about basketball court, swimming pool.
* Nick Wright: Pissed me off he was making fun…
* Spuzzillo: He shows his honesty…
* Geyer: Continued this with the gentrification—he was part of the problem, kicking out the black people, bringing in new businesses, totally making OTR a middle-upper class place.
* Ethan: Made this seem like “his city” as if he was the number one guy in the community. He moved there, swooped in, made it his city.
* Austin: Pride in a city, not owning it. Like sports teams with us, we.
* Fendinger: I agree—you have to take pride. “If I don’t have Uncle James—I don’t want to live there”
* Liam: Morrow is a piss stain.
* Fendinger: But it’s your piss stain.
* JJ: He didn’t talk about progressiveness for the people who are living there. We’ll preserve it by doing “this.” He doesn’t ever go into how people can make life better for OTR.
* Menke: Not necessarily his purpose…
* Geyer: Criticizing the fact that he’s trying to make things better, he’s giving them things / places they cannot use. Gentrification kicks people out. Cost of living skyrockets.
* JJ: They were denying that they were being racist…
* Eble: Asked for clarity…
* JJ: NAACP challenged City Council.
* Geyer: Trapp’s confession of not knowing he’s a part of the problem—no one is actively kicking out African Americans. It’s passive, hard to stop.
* Noah: At the end, when Betts is attacked. He shows subtly, he’s taking part in this. People do have prejudice about OTR. People see it as a bad neighborhood.
* Fendinger: The one supreme act of violence is a white person.
* JJ: In that moment, he’s closer to the folks in OTR he’s talking about. He shows that he’s understanding their position much better.
* Nick Wright: This comparison is a bit ridiculous. I experienced one bad thing in OTR… he overshot his ideas.
* Fendinger: “Bad thing” isn’t because of poor black people; crime can be caused by anyone.
* Nick Wright: You can’t say that he’s experiencing the same things.
* Geyer: He might be the only advocate. Trapp might be the only voice (wealthy English teacher)
* JJ: He’s not comparing himself to them… he’s discussing what kind of experience he had. OTR taught him to trust people. He shows that he admires people to go out there, even if the danger still exists.
* Olinger: From his POV, he’s writing as a white person looking down, not a black person looking up. Would be interesting to look at someone trying to keep the swimming pool, the old park. Would be interesting to hear others’ voice…
* Eble: Where do we see that voice?
* Olinger: Shared the experience in the essay of the planning meeting for OTR—people wanting a pool.
* Schutter: Quotes Ricardo Taylor. For the most part, they don’t have problems with renovations—they just want to be included. They want to be included.
* Mitch Poch: He talks to homeless, who are excited, but they don’t want to be harassed.
* Olinger: Not so black and white… race, not money. Huge gap…
* Worobetz: Only a few blocks.
* Geyer: Sounded like he proposed a part of town where you mix middle class, poor & lower-class people. Sounds like a great idea, but I don’t know how that’s possible. More middle class = raise the cost of living. Mixing that much would be difficult.
* Olinger: Read from page 96—statistics.
* Marshall Eippert: Next page—there is room for more middle class white people without displacing current residents. Speaks solely about population. He still likes this idea (read from 97)
* Fendinger: The end of this quote = more people in general.
* Worobetz: Bringing in more white people will help all or just the white?
* Marshall: Washington Park appeals more to the white, suburban population of people who have dogs as companions, not protectors. Will overall quality of life change? Lower-class folks will.
* JJ: That’s the crux of this essay. Put in the extra swimming pool—the way we’re doing this is wrong. We shouldn’t … he only talks about housing.
* Eble read from 98-99…
* Olinger: Was he not supposed to let the woman in? The persona is that he (or she) is uneasy…
* Worobetz: She was hipster… hipster lady walking with a giant dog.
* Eble: if this was Washington Park, would this have happened?
* Noah: Read from page 98—he doesn’t know whether or not the dog will attack.
* Marshall: Crime is randomness… that’s what happens to him at the end.
* Noah: No plan on this…
* Geyer: Back to the passage… where does this type of place exist?
* JJ: He wants more practicality inserted… he’s saying we’re not perfect, but we cannot be blatant racists.
* Liam: There are communities like that. Spoke about Middletown.
* JJ: You’ve got your serfs, your lords…
* Geyer: Even when you say that, you’re still subdividing Middletown into places where it is… could say that NYC is that way.
* Liam: Small enough location…
* Spuzzillo: Available public resources are shared by both.
* Marshall: A bit of dreamer, but also realistic. He’s talking about moving more towards integration.
* Ethan: He’s assuming that those problems will be fixed… spoke about crime rates… I don’t know where he’s going with this… we see that the lower class preys on the middle class. Spoke about Trayvon Martin. Crime rates between the two were high.
* Menke questioned him.
* Geyer: Your statement about the lower class actively tryin to destroy the rich.
* Nick Wright: No one is actively trying to do things… making things nicer = bad for poor people
* Eble read from 92. Asked Nick about the lack of basketball court…
* Nick Wright: People in Cincinnati are nervous about making decisions that may have a strong impact. The Streetcar could have been a relatively simple decision. Street Car…
* Jared Diesslin: Displays Washington Park in a way that poor people can’t come there.
* Menke: Huge dog park… doesn’t need to be that big.
* JJ: Who has the representation? Why is a pool not included?
* Eble: Read from 92.
* JJ: Does it represent their interests if industries come in…
* Eble: Spoke about intentionality with Vine Street, the restaurants there…
* JJ: People don’t have the same influence… or have to relocate…

JJ: Does this seem cyclical?

* Liam: Talks about the Italianate architecture. Discusses it as a highly-populated area with “tons of Krauts.” Talks about the changing neighborhood.
* Noah: Talks about the race riots.
* Fendinger: Why, when the middle class moves out, why does crime suddenly go up?
* Luke Weber: The middle class that moves in… where do all of the black people go…
* Nick Wright: Lower Price Hill…
* Geyer: Increased crime = budget, pressure to get certain things (causing theft), tension between middle and lower class. A product of not having any resources.
* JJ: This happened in *Grapes of Wrath*. Capitalistic ventures…
* Fendinger: To that point, there is some truth… the people in California wanted migrants while they were useful.
* JJ: Went back at him…
* Marshall: This isn’t aggressive… not trying to send people away. This is more of a gradual thing. Change doesn’t happen quickly in Cincinnati.
* JJ: But isn’t the end point of gentrification that
* Marshall: But I’d say that it’s to create a more ethnically-diverse hood.
* Geyer: He describes that as an inevitable consequence.
* Liam: If lower class cannot afford it… they will be pushed out.
* Marshall: Who is representing the lower class?
* Spuzzillo: NAACP is involved in a law suit.
* Geyer: 3CDC has some interaction

Eble: Other folks…

Spuzzillo: Heard on the radio about Music Hall event with architects. Talk about revamping OTR…

JJ: The reason that he let the person who maimed his hand play with his dog… think back to earlier. People said “You should make her a guard dog.”

Eble: Split ethos…?

* Jared: Discussed his excitement, but also his own struggles in dealing with this.
* Liam: Gives a perspective of a different life. In the end, he’s just a white guy. He can’t truly understand. He’s not a poor black person.
* Menke: Throughout the essay, he points out that he’s a “white hipster” who is a problem.
* Liam: Not just that he’s white; he’s not poor.
* Eble: So how does he branch out?
* Liam: He talks to poor people. He’s not trying to do the right thing; he’s trying to understand them. Betts is an ontological instrument.
* Spuzzillo: He’s somewhat removed from the problem.
* Austin: Interesting… our class analysis. We’re all “him” in a sense. We have to cut him a bit of slack. None of us really know either.
* Eble: So how do we, as people of faith, relative influence / affluence, act towards them?
* Austin: Pulling from what he has.
* Geyer: Steinbeck did the same thing…you cannot just look at people as numbers.
* Mitch: That’s when people of wealth try to help the less fortunate. Throw money at them. You cannot fix the problem if you don’t understand. Steinbeck, Shantytown are ways to experience what others do.
* Fendinger: In his article, he portrays that… read from the text. He’s talking about poop; if you replace that with society, that works, too.
* JJ: That also puts responsibility on the park… every four years, we renew that contract with them. However, the implementation of this new park, despite the will of the majority, shows the breakdown of that.

Nick Wright: Back to Austin’s comment. I had a weird vibe of a persona of him thinking he’s better than anybody else. He doesn’t do anything to remedy the problem. Writing the article itself is great… but by humbling himself, he’s making himself look better (?).

* Austin: It’s a great first step. I’m interested to meet the guy.
* Eble: Clarified the background.
* Austin: More to it?
* Luke Weber: His audience = people like us.
* Fendinger: Trying to break a stereotype.
* Geyer: The bad things aren’t necessarily bad things…
* Nick Wright: Reaction
* Geyer: What is he supposed to do?
* Nick Wright: I’m aware that I’m part of the problem.
* Menke: It has done *something*…
* Luke Weber: He’s an English teacher…
* Geyer:
* Menke: that was his point…
* Nick Wright: I struggled with his way of establishing ethos.
* Austin: I agree…
* Spuzzillo: But he didn’t say that his demographic is a bad thing. He sought a middle ground to create a diverse community.
* Menke: In some ways, he’s better than…
* Eble: Talked about *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*… white / privileged people…
* Liam: Asked about Uncle Toms…
* Marshall: Mr. Tull says that Uncle Tom is the prototypical black pushover.

Eble: Shift to budget talk…

* Liam: Nice heads-up…

Fendinger: Panic, not having money. I would be living in my car. Little money on clothes.

Geyer: This is why the poor need a voice: There’s little resources, worries.

* Fendinger: Mr. Naumann—the proles rarely do their revolution.
* JJ:
* Liam: To Mr. Eble’s point—not doing what’s right… I didn’t need this. Last year… I live far away… when I first got my job, I didn’t want to do anything to lose my job.
* Geyer: Comment about people reaching their self-efficacy. Lack of ambition = a product of your other needs not being met. That’s why there is no ambition…
* JJ: My manager wishes she could go to school and work.

Fendinger: Aviva Chomsky… we abused / harassed her for being a white woman hipster douchebag for immigrants. She was giving them a voice.

* Geyer: Her dad was an immigrant… need for a white, middle-class person. That’s why *20 myths* isn’t groundbreaking.