

NOVELA AUTOBIOGRÁFICA

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3º Grupo A

BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Indian Wisdom - Standing Bear

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IURCbBH2O0U> (Sofia) it's a video explaining why Standing Bear's words are important even today.

Luther Standing Bear *Chief of the Oglala, Lakota (1905-1939)*

<http://www.indigenouspeople.net/standbea.htm> (Sofia) I've chosen this web because it's Standing Bear talking about the Lakotas and their relationship with nature.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvGiYFOx5T4&feature=fvsr> (It is only a curiosity) Sioux Honor Song. (Alba)

The Slave Narrative (Ángela)

<http://public.wsu.edu/~campbelld/amlit/slave.htm>

In this webpage you will find general information on what a slave narrative is, examples of this kind of narratives and suggestions for further reading.

Slavery in America. American Literature. (Ángela)

<http://www.slaveryinamerica.org/amliterature/overview.htm>

This site offers information about the lives of African American slaves and the literature dealing with this topic. The website is divided into 6 main different sections: history, geography, American literature, narratives/biographies, teaching resources and television resources. It is interesting to note that, in the slave narrative section, there are different areas: one of contemporary narratives, another one for biographies and then 3 sections dealing with 3 different themes, namely that of buying and selling slaves, working the plantation and emancipation.

Interesting websites:

This link <http://www.brycchancarey.com/equiano/biblio.htm> provides details of a wide range of texts which discuss Equiano. (Diego)

This link <http://www.ipl.org/div/natam/bin/browse.pl/A110> shows several works of Luther Standing Bear. (Diego)

Carlisle Indian Industrial School: a web page on its history, how it was conceived and the people who attended to it. <http://home.epix.net/~landis/> (Rosa)

Web page of the Akta Lakota Museum & Cultural Center, a museum of the Native American people and culture in Chamberlain, South Dakota. It contains several sections on the history of the Sioux people as well as a section dedicated to Luther Standing Bear.

<http://www.aktalakota.org/index.cfm?cat=1&artid=386> (Rosa)

QUOTES

“I now began to realize that I would have to learn the ways of the white man. With that idea in mind, the thought also came to me that I must please my father as well” (Sofia) Even as a child Luther Standing Bear has understood that in order to live between both worlds he needs to please both and to take both identities. He will have to learn the ways of the whites to be Luther but he's also an Indian son so he must please his father as well as Standing Bear.

“Now, after having my hair cut, a new thought came into my head. I felt that I was no more Indian, but would be an imitation of a white man. And we are still imitations of white men, and the white men are imitations of the Americans” (39). “Luther Standing Bear”.(Alba Alcalá)

In this quote Luther begins to think that he is being transformed into an American. It is interesting because he realized that they are trying to change his culture only when they talk about cutting his hair which, perhaps, seems the most innocent fact that they are supposed to obey.

From The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African by Olaudah Equiano, Chapter I: (Angela)

These instances, and a great many more which might be adduced; while they shew how the complexions of the same persons vary in different climates, it is hoped [it is hoped they] may tend also to remove the prejudice that some conceive against the natives of Africa on account of their colour.

In this first chapter, Equiano makes his own self-representation as a person very similar to his readers. In the engraved image we see that he portrays himself as literate catholic and he is dressed like his target audience. The only difference is his color. In this fragment, Equiano is explaining that the colonisers in Africa get tanned without losing their privileged statuses. Also, by saying that “the complexions of the same persons vary in different climates” he is suggesting that their color is not permanent but is a consequence of living in Africa. This statement is the final one of a long list of stereotypes about black people that he demystifies in this first chapter. The facts he tells us from his African background are not the stereotypes held by Western people, but, in fact, they seem typical events that could perfectly happen in the Western World. He wants to prove that there are no real reasons to enslave blacks as they are only different from whites in terms of color and, after all, color is a very variable condition.

In The interesting Narrative of the life of Olaudah Equiano it is said that although slavery existed in Africa, a slave's situation in there was radically different from his condition in the West Indies, as Equiano explains, *They do no more work than other members of the community and some of these slaves have even slaves under them, as their own property, and for their own use.* (Diego)

“I had come to this school merely to show my people that I was brave enough to leave the reservation and go East, not knowing what it meant and no caring”. Luther Standing Bear, *My People, the Sioux*, p. 34.

I find this quote interesting as it is the first time Luther Standing Bear introduces the reason for going to the school at Carlisle. Although, this statement reflects his initial will of demonstration of their capability, it will soon be changed into an imposition of new language and manners as well as the prohibition of their native ones. (Rosa)

QUESTIONS

Why do you think Luther Standing Bear titled his books with words related to his inheritance when he seemed eager to learn the white men ways? (Sofia)

Seems that being a child Luther gets used to the white men ways pretty easily, however there's always a sense of how he's losing his identity with small details. Having to request permission to talk to his dad in Indian, crying after his hair cut. As Standing Bear says, no matter how humble your home is, it is still your home. He adjust to the white men world but at the end he's always conscious that he comes from somewhere else and seems he never forgets that.

- At the beginning of the “Luther Standing Bear” story, the author says that “The preparation of this book has not been with any idea of self-glory”, **do you believe him or do you think that there are other purposes for writing the book? (Alba Alcalá)**

I think that there is another purpose. All people who write an autobiography is because they want to be remembered. Perhaps, the main purpose of the author is to narrate a story but, inside this, he wanted to expose his life in order to be remembered. He thinks that the facts that he talks about are important but because he thinks that he is important too.

What is the main difference between slavery in African communities and in American communities? (Ángela)

In Africa, slaves were not dehumanised and they were slaves because they had done something bad. For instance, they could be war prisoners (so, in that case they were the enemies), they could be murderers or kidnappers (and therefore, threats to their communities). In spite of being slaves, they were seen/treated as almost equals. On the other hand, for American and European people, slaves were completely dehumanised, with the ultimate purpose of legitimizing their practice, and they were cruelly and brutally treated and were forced to work and live in shameful conditions.

Equiano explains that there were white men who thought Africans were cannibals that eat each other alive or dead. **What did Equiano think about white people after knowing that?**

In Equiano's eyes, “those white men with horrible looks, red faces, and long hair” are the degenerate and wild “other”, the feared anthropophagi. (Diego)

(Rosa) “When our interpreter told us to go to a certain building which he pointed out to us, we ran very fast expecting to find nice little beds like those the white people had. [...] But the first room we entered was empty. A cast-iron stove stood in the middle of the room on which was placed a coal-oil lamp. There was no fire in the stove. We ran through all the rooms, but they were all the same –no fire, no beds”. Luther Standing Bear, *My People, the Sioux*, p. 34.

“The first object which saluted my eyes when I arrived on the coast was the sea, and a slave ship, which was then riding at anchor, and waiting for its cargo. These filled me with astonishment, which was soon converted into terror when I was carried on board. I was immediately handled and tossed up to see if I were found by some of the crew; and I was now persuaded that I had gotten into a world of bad spirits, and that they were going to kill me”. Equiano, *Autobiography*, Chapter II, p. 71.

Compare these two quotes, what are the feelings Equiano and Luther Standing Bear have when seeing their new destinations?

These two quotes refer to the moments when the protagonists recall their feelings and sensations when arriving for the first time to a place: school or coast. The naivety and illusion of a

child desiring to find a good place to live in is suddenly changed into frustration and disillusion as the school isn't like he expected. On the other hand, in Equiano's we see how astonishment goes into fear. It is the unknown of what he is seeing which terrifies him.