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La résurgence de la culture afro-américaine dans l'Amérique de Trump à travers Black Panther

Un film de Ryan Coogler, 2018

Type d'activité : Analyse d'extraits

Durée : 2 h

Extraits : De 00:28:33 à 00:33:12 } T'Challa and Killmonger in the Ancestral Plane
De 01:24:00 à 01:28:20 }
De 02:05:10 à 02:06:44 T'Challa at the United Nations

Introduction

Black Panther est un film mettant en scène un super-héros de l'univers Marvel, qui s'inscrit dans la continuité de *Captain America: Civil War*. C'est un énorme succès en salle à travers le monde, dépassant les records au box-office. Comment ce film symbolise-t-il la résurgence de la culture afro-américaine dans l'Amérique de Trump ? Black Panther, héros noir créé en 1966, durant la lutte pour l'égalité des droits, revient en force en 2018, dans un pays divisé socialement et politiquement, et résonne dans la communauté afro-américaine, en utilisant une imagerie et un symbolisme inspirés des cultures africaines.

Cette fiche destinée aux classes de terminale peut illustrer une séquence dédiée à la ségrégation raciale aux États-Unis, à la lutte pour les droits civiques, aux *comics* et à leur implication politique.

Dans les programmes

Discipline	Niveau	Objets d'étude	Compétences
Anglais	Cycle terminal	Identités et échanges Fictions et réalités	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Compréhension orale ▶ Expression orale



Black Panther

L'histoire

Après la mort de son père, T'Challa devient roi du Wakanda, un royaume africain possédant une ressource rare et précieuse, protégée du reste du monde par une barrière magique. Le nouveau roi est aussi investi du pouvoir ancestral de Black Panther, qui fait de lui le protecteur du Wakanda. Cependant, T'Challa doit faire face à une conspiration visant à le renverser. Il doit alors affronter les usurpateurs et créer des alliances inattendues pour préserver l'intégrité du royaume.

Un film de :
Ryan Coogler

Genre : Super héros

Année : 2018

Part 1 : Warm up: historical landmarks

1 / Pair work : look for the dates of the following events, as well as any relevant information about them, then classify them chronologically.

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1- Creation of the Black Panther movement | a- April 4 th 1968 |
| 2- Election of Barack Obama as President of the USA | b- January 1 st 1863 |
| 3- Abolition of slavery in the USA (Emancipation Proclamation) | c- August 14 th 2016 |
| 4- Martin Luther King's speech «I have a dream» | d- November 8 th 2016 |
| 5- Election of Donald Trump as President of the USA | e- October 16 th 1968 |
| 6- Creation of the movement «Black Lives Matter» | f- August 28 th 1963 |
| 7- Assassination of Martin Luther King | g- October 15 th 1966 |
| 8- Black Power salute at the Olympic Games of Mexico | h- July 13 th 2013 |
| 9- Beginning of the National Football League (NFL) players' protest | i- November 4 th 2008 |

2 / Observe the two photographs and list the common points and the differences between them.



Black Panther US movie poster, 2018



Huey P. Newton, Black Panther activist, 1968

Part 2 : Extract 1 and 2 : T'Challa and Killmonger in the Ancestral Plane

3 / Watch the two extracts and fill in the grid:

	Extract 1	Extract 2
Locations (justify with elements from the extracts)		
Characters' outfits		
Languages		

4 / Explain the symbolical purpose of the burial in both scenes.

5 / Comment on the image of the tree in T'Challa's dream.

6 / Explain to what extent the atmosphere and the emotions conveyed in the two extracts are different.

7 / a) Complete Killmonger's quote in the second extract:

«Everybody..... It's just around»

b) Explain what this sentence reveals about the situation of the African-American community in 2018.

8 / Compare how close-ups are used in both extracts and their impact on the viewer.



T'Challa



Killmonger

Part 3 : **Extract 3 : T'Challa at the United Nations**



9 / Listen and fill in the blanks in the following quotes:

a- «Now more than , the illusions of division our very»

b- «More us than us.»

c- «But in times of crisis, the builds while the builds»

10 / Explain these quotes in the light of the contemporary social and political situation in the USA.



Éléments de correction

Part 1 : warm up : historical landmarks

- 1/ 1 - g - Movement created by B. Seale and H. P. Newton to fight for the rights of the African-Americans
 2 - i - First African-American president in the USA
 3 - b- by President Lincoln in the context of the Civil War (Secession War)
 4 - f- For the equality between communities during the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
 5 - d - Very much debated election
 6 - h - Movement against violence and inequalities against Black people in the USA
 7 - a - In his motel in Memphis, Tennessee
 8 - e - Two African-American athletes raised their black-gloved hands during the American national anthem.
 9 - c - Football players refused to kneel during the American national anthem.

Chronological order: 3 / 4 / 1 / 7 / 8 / 2 / 6 / 5 / 9

- 2/ Common points: the «thrones» and their similar round shape, the attitude of the two men = power, the outfits = uniforms, similar colors and fabrics, use of African elements = shields, surroundings for T'Challa.
Differences: fiction vs. history, reality, 50 years between the two pictures, Newton holds weapons = seen as a challenge, idea of hostility vs. T'Challa = peaceful, idea of defense.

Part 2: Extract 1 and 2 : T'Challa and Killmonger in the Ancestral Plane

3/	Extract 1	Extract 2
Locations	Africa = landscape (African savannah), wild animals, trees (fever trees/vachellia), nature	USA = apartment, urban setting, basketball field, fences, city lights
Characters' outfits	traditional = African fabrics, colors and patterns	modern = street wear, casual, US culture
Languages	African language (Xhosa)	English with African intonations

- 4/ Burial of the two characters in the soil of Wakanda = power of the land of the ancestors, which regenerates. African soil brings strength, a return to the origins.
- 5/ tree = a family tree, with its roots set in the African ground + idea of legacy, of a duty towards the ancestors
- 6/ 1 : serene, peaceful atmosphere = reassuring, soothing - the ancestors bring wisdom and confidence
 2 : gloomy atmosphere, violence, idea of loss and confusion, bitterness (loss of the own homeland)
- 7/ a) «Everybody dies. It's just life around here.» b) This quote hints at the climate of violence and intolerance which is getting more and more important in the USA, it refers to the increasing number of victims in the African-American community and the appearance of movements such as «Black Lives Matter», it alludes to the social crisis affecting the USA, most particularly the African-American community.
- 8/ 1 = T'Challa and his father appear complementary, represent the transmission of power to the younger generation, they even appear together on the screen / 2 = more of a confrontation between Killmonger and his father, like a face-off, they are never together on the screen = division, gap, distance from the ancestors.
 → Focus on emotions : form of intimacy between viewer and characters, we share their inner thoughts.

Part 3 : Extract 3: T'Challa at the United Nations

- 9/ a- «Now more than ever, the illusions of division threaten our very existence.»
 b- «More connects us than separates us.»
 c- «But in times of crisis, the wise builds bridges while the foolish builds barriers.»
- 10/ Idea that the unity of the American nation is challenged nowadays, the population is becoming more and more divided socially, politically. A reference to Trump's policy of self-protection and isolation: project of wall between the USA and Mexico = a way to separate, isolate, divide the communities.

Pour aller plus loin

- ▶ *Panther*, réalisé par Mario Van Peebles en 1995 (genèse du mouvement « Black Panther »)
- ▶ Le mouvement « Black Lives Matter » : http://www.lemonde.fr/ameriques/article/2016/07/11/black-lives-matter-la-nouvelle-voix-des-noirs-aux-etats-unis_4967977_3222.html
- ▶ Donald Trump et la communauté afro-américaine : <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/09/29/what-black-americans-are-most-worried-about-in-the-trump-era/>