Martin Studies Bigotry, 1939-1995

James Brewbaker

Follow this and additional works at: http://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/pil

Part of the Curriculum and Instruction Commons, Online and Distance Education Commons, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Commons, and the Teacher Education and Professional Development Commons

Recommended Citation


This Essay is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at CSU ePress. It has been accepted for inclusion in Perspectives In Learning by an authorized editor of CSU ePress.
Diversity in Education: Meeting the Challenge

Martin Studies Bigotry, 1939-1995

Bigotry 101:
bigotry was Martin's by birth—true enough
but his grandmother taught him his superiority
their superiority. The best blood in Virginia flows through
those veins, she told him. Remember, she said. And he did.

Remedial Bigotry:
Martin and Eddy saw Lena Horne in technicolor. She sang
"Stormy Weather" as dancers spiraled around her
in tight Cuban pants and florid green and lavender shirts.
Her milk and coffee arms and shoulders looked like dessert
and Martin loved her. She's a Negress,
his grandmother said. You mustn't forget that—ever.
So he did as he was taught. He remembered.
Yet Lena Horne remained his secret,
his milk and coffee dessert until the day he died.

Applied Bigotry:
Martin toured the Civil Rights Institute, saw the water
fountain for colored, a burned Greyhound bus
heard voices of angry white men
heard black people sing "Oh Freedom"
saw dogs and hoses, people running in all directions.
In the lobby, a large book was open on a table
a sign told him to register, to tell about his role
in the Movement. He remembered his grandmother's
lesson. Martin wrote, "I did nothing."

James Brewbaker