Lesson Plan

Humor and Horror

Book: *Jordan Peele*
Series: Black Voices on Race
Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students explore how humor and horror can be used to critique and comment on society.

Supplies

- Several copies of the *Jordan Peele* book
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Jordan Peele* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Jordan Peele has written and directed comedy sketches and horror movies. His work in both genres often comments on society and addresses key social issues. Ask each student to choose one sketch or film mentioned in the book. They should use the book's text to write a short essay (two or three paragraphs) explaining how this film or sketch addresses social issues. In this essay, students should answer the following questions:

- What is the plot or topic of this sketch or film?
- How does this sketch or film critique or comment on a social issue?
- What might the sketch or film make viewers feel, think, or learn?
- How might people's views or understanding change as a result of watching it?
- Do you think people would be more or less likely to change their minds if Peele stated his message directly? Why or why not?

For the last question, remind students to back up their answers with reasoning, information, or examples. They can use details from the book, or they can draw from their own lives and experiences.

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Evaluation

Collect the essays at the end of class, and give each student up to 4 points:

- 1 point for summarizing the key ideas about the film or sketch from the book's text
- 1 point for identifying which issue(s) the film or sketch addressed
- 1 point for expressing an opinion about the likelihood of people's minds changing
- 1 point for supporting their claims with reasons and examples

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 6 (RI 6.1, 6.2, 6.3), and writing standards, grade 6 (W 6.1).

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