

Handout A: *Redneck Muslim*: Film Notes

Glossary:

halal – designation given to food prepared according to religious regulations

As-salāmu ‘alaykum – Arabic greeting, meaning “peace be upon you”

imam – person who leads prayers and services in a mosque

Allah – name for God in Arabic

As you watch the film, collect the following information about the main character, Shane Atkinson:

Gender	
Race	
Language(s)	
Place of Origin and Residence	
Family composition	
Socioeconomic Status	
Career	

What questions do you have after watching this film? (List at least 2 to discuss with the class.)

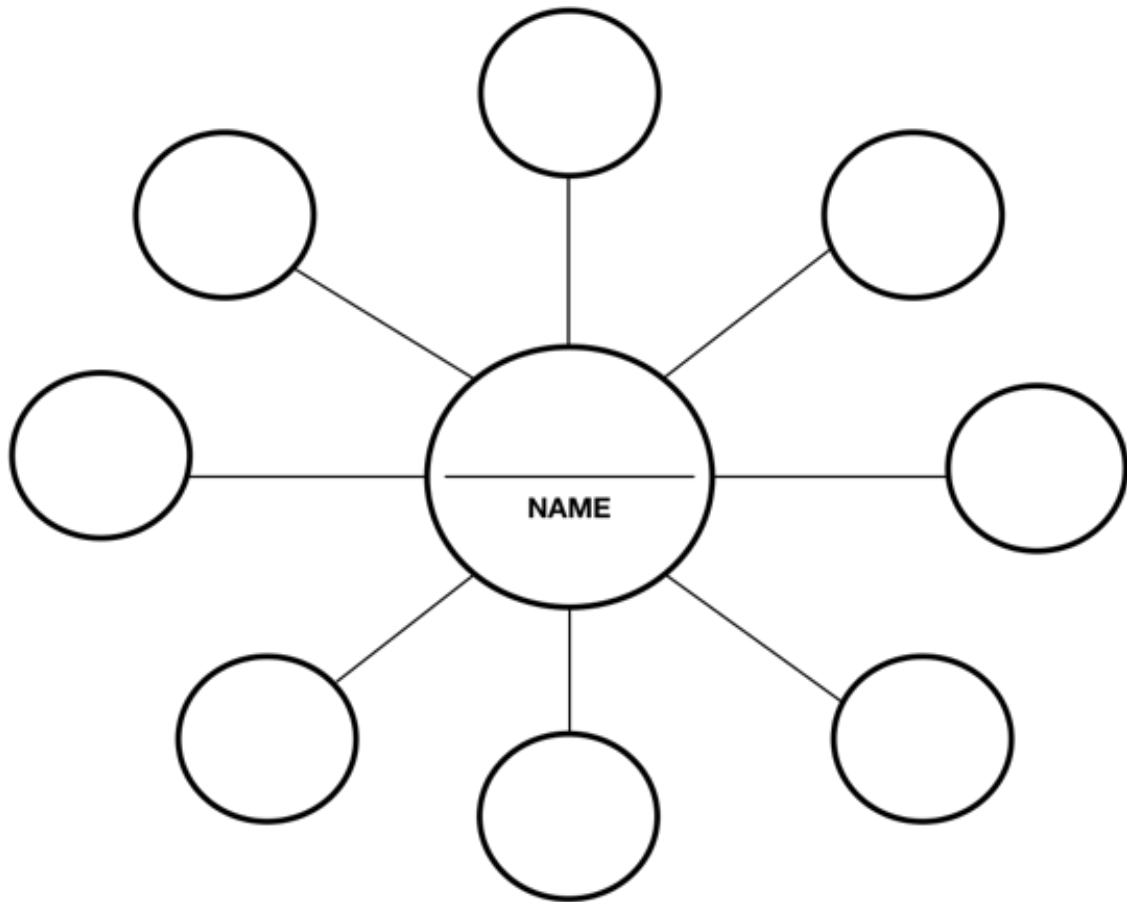
Handout B: *Redneck Muslim*: Discussion Questions

- 1) What family histories, life experiences, and social norms have shaped Shane's identity?
- 2) Is Shane's identity in conflict with social norms? Explain.
- 3) Think about the people in Shane's life. How is his identity similar or different from their identities?
- 4) How did Shane's identity change or shift over time?
- 5) How does Shane's identity as a white man shape his group affiliations and personal relationships?
- 6) How does Shane's identity as a Muslim shape his group affiliations and personal relationships?
- 7) How do Shane's identity characteristics shape his morals, values, and actions?

Handout C: Identity Map

Directions:

- 1) Write your name in the center.
- 2) In each of the circles, write one characteristic of your identity.
- 3) Outside of the smaller circles, write the names of groups, communities, or institutions that connect to this identity characteristic.
- 4) Outside of the smaller circles, write one action, moral, or value that is related to this part of your identity.
- 5) Draw a star beside each identity characteristic that has changed or developed over time.



Handout D: "*Redneck Muslim*: Journal Prompt"

Audre Lorde was a poet, essayist, librarian, and activist for racial justice. She self-described as a “black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet.” Her work frequently addressed issues of sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia.

Read and analyze the following quotes. (Both quotes from Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference” in *Sister Outsider* (1984), pages 116 and 120)

Quote 1: “Somewhere, on the edge of consciousness, there is what I call a *mythical norm*, which each one of us within our hearts knows “that is not me.” In america, this norm is usually defined as white, thin, male, young, heterosexual, christian, and financially secure. It is with this mythical norm that the trappings of power reside within this society.”

Quote 2: “As a Black lesbian feminist comfortable with the many different ingredients of my identity, and a woman committed to racial and sexual freedom from oppression, I find I am constantly being encouraged to pluck out some one aspect of myself and present this as the meaningful whole, eclipsing or denying the other parts of self. But this is a destructive and fragmenting way to live. My fullest concentration of energy is available to me only when I integrate all the parts of who I am... Only then can I bring myself and my energies as a whole to the service of those struggles which I embrace as part of my living.”

Write a journal reflection that addresses at least one of following questions:

1. How do Lorde’s insights connect to the film, *Redneck Muslim*? Make at least one specific connection between Shane’s story and the quotes.
2. What are the “different ingredients” of your own identity and how do they connect to the things you are most passionate about? Identify at least one connection between your own experiences and Lorde’s quote or the film.
3. Lorde’s quote describes conflict between “mythical norms” and our identities. How do you see this conflict in *Redneck Muslim*? Where do you see this conflict in your own identity?
4. How does identity inform social action, morals, or values? Draw on one example from the film and one example from the quotes.