Cullen Chapter 3 Part 1 Cornell Notes

Key Quotations	Notes
"Like the American Dream broadly construed, this one of the good life exists in a series of variations" (59-60). What are some of the variations of the "good" life? "But there are other forms of mobility, too; tales of transformation through education. . . or people with modest resources who triumphed. . .or other realms of human aspiration. And like other American Dreams, the power of this one lay in a sense of collective ownership; anyone can get ahead" (60). What is the problem with the idea that "anyone" can get ahead, specifically in the time in American history prior to the Civil War?	

What are Cullen's claims about the American Dream?

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"It took a couple hundred years for the realities of American life to shape the Dream of Upward Mobility" (60) Explain what is meant by Upward Mobility. "Rarely, if ever, has any American been so upwardly mobile [as Benjamin Franklin]- or more clear about the basis and meaning of his success. 'I conceived my becoming a member would enlarge my power of doing good,' he wrote to a friend of his election to the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1751" (64) Franklin was a good example of Upward Mobility, but what did he also see as evidence of success?	

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"Slavery. . .was increasingly considered a threat to the Dream of Upward Mobility by a small but growing number of people. These people did not necessarily have any direct economic interest in slavery- nor, for that matter, did they always care whether it was wrong. What concerned them most was the way the peculiar institution compromised their view of themselves and their country"(74). According to some people, how did the institution of slavery affect the idea of America and, thusly, the American Dream?	

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"'I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father's child has. It is in order that each of you may have through this free government. . . an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise, and intelligence; that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life'" (74). What aspects of the American Dream does this quote from Lincoln represent? "Lincoln's entire public persona--his homely looks and unkempt appearance, his celebrated sense of humor, the self-effacing modesty he repeatedly deployed while running for and holding office. . .was leveraged on his modest beginnings and what he had made of them. . . it was made, and heard, as a testament to how democracy could elevate Everyman" (76) Why would these parts of Lincoln's character be so important to a voting public? How do they connect to the notion of the American Dream of Upward Mobility?	

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"How did slavery corrode Lincoln's American Dream. . .the first was economic. The presence of slavery impeded upward mobility not only of African Americans but also of European Americans, because the slave economy narrowed the prospects of men without the ever-greater amounts of capital necessary to invest in slaves." How did slavery affect the Upward Mobility of whites and slaves?	

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"And democracy, it almost went without saying, was for Lincoln the greatest form of government. . . Most *governments* have been based, practically, on the denial of equal rights to men. . .*Ours* began by *affirming* those rights. *They* said, some men are too *ignorant* and *vicious* to share its government. . . .We proposed to give *all* a chance; and we expected the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant, wiser; and all better, and happier together. We made the experiment, and the fruit is before us'"(86) How, according to Lincoln, is democracy related to the Dream of Upward Mobility?	

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