Cullen Chapter 4 Cornell Notes

Key Quotations	Notes
"Freedom meant freedom to dominate and freedom from regulation. Equality, by contrast, was a base "leveling" instinct that restricted freedom by insisting that everyone, even those who were evidently superior, had to play by the same rules, respect the same limits. Any assertion that people should be more equal than they theoretically already were smacked of socialism-and socialism, like other "foreign" ideas, was thoroughly beyond the pale" (107). What is the difference, according to this quotation, between freedom and equality?	
What are Cullen's claims abou	ut the American Dream?

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"That's because the American Dream depends on it. At some visceral level, virtually all of us need to believe that equality is one of the core values of everyday American life, that its promises extend to everyone. If they don't then not everybody is eligible for the American Dream" (108). Why is equality a cornerstone of the American Dream?	
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The notion that everyone has the hypothetical possibility of being equal in public life is a standard we consider practical, as opposed to equality of condition, which we typically do not. We can accept, even savor, all kinds of inequalities as long as we can imagine different outcomes" (108). What are some issues that may stand in the way of everyone having an equal "possibility" for equality?	
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"In principle, even now there's no reason why separate but equal couldn't workexcept that history shows that in the realm of race relations, it never has. And that's because, as a practical matter, separate but equal was simply a legal fiction whose entire reason for existence was a reality of separate but unequal" (117). What is "separate but equal"? Why would some Americans be	Notes
why would some Americans be supporters of such a way of life?	
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In society liberty for one may mean the suppression of liberty for others. The result		
of competition may be who got a head start and who is handicapped. In America, as		
everywhere elseliberty often provided an opportunity for the stronger to rob the		
weaker" (118).		
How does this vision of liberty in a society contradict the idea of the American Dream?		
"What these and other parents yearned for above all was a part of the American Dream:		
equal opportunities for their children. That is why schools became some of the fiercest		
battlegrounds in conflicts between the races in postwar America" (118).		
Why is education so important in the struggle for both the American Dream and equality?		
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"Inequalities of opportunity and	
condition have been central features of the American	
experience for women, and	
while this has changed to some	
degree in modern times, the American Dream remains	
problematic. It has largely been	
a male dream"	
(119)	
What are some ways that	
women have been prevented	
from obtaining the American Dream?	
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"[King] was a free man, but he was exercising his freedom in the most profound way a human being can; choosing to give it up by committing to something, or someone, else. And for what did King exercise his freedom? To a great extent, the answer is an American Dream of Equality"(125).	
What is the American Dream of Equality? How was King helping not only himself, but others?	
"[King stated] segregation and discrimination are strange paradoxes in a nation founded on the principle that all men are created equal (125). What is the "paradox" of equality in America?	
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"'I still have a dream,' [King] said toward the end of the speech'it is a dream deeply	
rooted in the American dream	
that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true	
meaning of its creedwe hold these truths to be self-evident,	
that all men are created equal'."(126)	
King used words from the	
Declaration of Independence in this part of his speech. Why	
would that be an effective reference in a speech about	
civil rights?	
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"[King stated] It's all right to tell a man to lift himself up by his bootstraps, but it is a cruel jest to tell a bootless man that he ought to lift himself up by his own bootstraps" (128).	
What is King stating about equality of opportunity and its relationship to the American Dream?	
"[James Baldwin stated] 'This has everything to do, of course, with the nature of that [American] dream and the fact that we Americans, of whatever color, do not dare examine it and are far from having made it a reality. There are too many things we do not wish to know about ourselves. People are not, for example, terribly anxious to be equal (equal, after all, to what and to whom?) but they love the idea of being superior'" (129). What does Baldwin mean that people in 1963 are not anxious to be equal?	
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