

Racism in the English Language.

A short play on "black" and "white" words:

Some may blackly (angrily) accuse me of trying to blacken (defame) the English language, to give it a black eye (a mark of shame) by writing such black words (hostile). They may denigrate (to cast asperations, to darken) me by accusing me of being blackhearted (malevolent), of having a black outlook (pessimistic, dismal) on life, of being a blackguard (scoundrel)-which would certainly be a black mark (detrimental fact) against me. Some may black-brow (scowl at) me and hope that a black cat crosses in front of me because of this black deed. I may become a black sheep (one who causes shame or embarrassment because of deviation from the accepted standard.), who will be blackballed (ostracized) by being placed on a blacklist (list of undersiables) in an attempt to blackmail (to force or coerce into a threat) me to retract my words. But attempts to blackjack (to compel by threat) me will have a Chinaman's chance of success, for I am not a yellow-bellied Indian-giver of words, who will whitewash (cover up or gloss over vices or crimes) a black lie (harmful, inexcusable). I challenge the purity and innocence (white) of the English language. I don't see things in black and white (entirely bad or entirely good) terms, for I am a white man (marked by upright firmness) if there ever was one. However, it would be a black day when I would not "call a spade a spade." even though some will suggest a white man calling the English language racist is like the pot calling the kettle black. While many may be niggardly (grudging, scanty) in their support, others will be honest and decent-and to them say, that's very white of you (honest, decent)!

Color Symbolism:

"Good guys" wear white hats and ride white horses, "bad guys" wear black hats and ride black horses.

Angels are white, and devils are black.

Definitions:

White- morally pure, spotless, innocent, free from evil intent.

Black- without any moral light or goodness, evil, wicked, indicating disgrace, sinful.

Bulletin Board suggestion:

List words used in English Language ask student to define them, follow up with a Hump night activity

Black deed	war paint (referring to women's makeup)
Black list	black hearted
Black market	blackmail
White lie	black sheep
White hope	white knight
Dark (as in dark day)	black magic
To gyp (from gypsy)	black comedy
Yellow peril	yellow journalism
To scalp	alien
Jew's harp	red menace
To Jew down	yellow bellied
Minority	third world

Non-white	(Native) American
Gay	retarded
Indian giver	four eyes
I'll give you a handicap	ghetto/welfare
Pagan	

Exercise for Resident Advisors:

-Ask your R.A.'s to be pro-active in the next week and ask students, when using these words to choose another word. To actually say "word Choice." Use one on one time, or staff meetings to discuss what went on for R.A.'s and their interactions.