

Ellen C. Caldwell—“Coates and the Legacy of James Baldwin”

- You might want to explore the critique by Cornell West and the op-ed by David Brooks.
- Explain Morrison’s claim that Coates’ language is “beautifully redemptive” (qtd in Caldwell).
- Explain how “the search for power” might constitute “the fundamental building blocks of American history” (Caldwell).
- What is meant by “*recreated* American myths” (emphasis mine), and why can the dream only be “realized through out disbelief” (Pakrasi qtd in Caldwell)?
- Explain what is meant by “an awakening of history” as well as “a reckoning with the brokenness of the American dream” (Caldwell).
- Throughout both Baldwin and Coates is the theme that “white America” is enslaved by its own myth (à la F. Douglass) and also need liberation. Explain.
- If the “Dreamers” are not the intended audience for Baldwin and Coates, who is the audience? Explain.