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### **UNSETTLED AT THE FORE**

The main point of the play *Fences* was the undeniable malevolence towards of the African American communities against the gentrified whites. *Fences*, by August Wilson's was about a man, by the name of Troy Maxson who suffered the harsh reality of racism when his opportunity to become a professional baseball player was taken away from him due to his ethnicity. Susan Koprince's article "Baseball as History and Myth in August Wilson's 'Fences.'" Uses baseball analogy and says that Black people are born with two strikes already in play. Signifying its significance and cruelty that Black Americans faced. Traumatized by the experience, it caused him to become unsympathetic towards his family particularly his sons. Any disagreements he had (whether it be major or minor one) if it was contrary to his ethics it turned into a passive aggressive conflict. But, Troy is now living the average life as a garbage man supporting his family. At the beginning of the scene were introduced to his home setting, described as what seems to be a poorly maintained household set in an isolated location (set back off a small alley in a big-city neighborhood). The introductory description of the scene could very well be a depiction and manifestation of the bitterness his experience left him. Two oil drums placed at the side of his house representing his reluctance to let go of his bitterness, the

unfinished fence alluding to the racism he faced, and the baseball bat leaned on a tree symbolizing his love and passion for the sport lost in his youth. And of course his property symbolizing his own self. Even though, Troy was often harsh with his reasoning and responses he was actually a very insightful individual full of wisdom. Everything he had advised his family about life was true. Take for example gambling. Troy says, "If I had all the money niggers, these Nergroes, throw away on numbers for one week - just one week- I'd be a rich man". It's not that he's just right, people are practically throwing away money in a very unproductive manner and begging for it when they need it most. Personally, this is what a great father should encourage his kids. To not throw arduously obtained finances to these minuscule monetary excitements esp not as a black man. Contrary to the preceding fatherly example his interaction with Lyons is said otherwise. Lyons wanted to do what's right and pay back the 10 dollars his father lent him. His perception of his father was concrete. A man with strict principles and he knew he had to pay him back. He insisted his father takes the 10 dollars but refused it and said to keep it for himself in case he returns to ask for more money. It's important understand Troy's feeling and assumption isn't wrong. But as a father his compassion lacked. He shouldn't be attempting to create distance with his kids but try to establish a new relationship. But instead Rose takes the money. In my opinion Troy should've found any means necessary to readdress and fix personal matters before starting a family. For me this play resonates with the Bible in so many ways. Starting with Troy's bitterness and trauma.. It really show me how important it is to not put your heart in the things of this world. Jesus says "What does a man gain if he forfeits his soul". Troy after losing his career is now only blowing through the wind of life doing "his job" as a father. He's only adding to his loss because of his past and the pain he has been harboring

for years. Who knows what other alternatives Troy could have suggested to himself after the loss of his career.

Wilson, August. *Fences*. *Literature: A Portable Anthology*, edited by Janet E. Gardner et al., 4th ed., Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2017, pp. 1030-1088.

Koprince, Susan. "Baseball as History and Myth in August Wilson's 'Fences.'" *African American Review*, vol. 40, no. 2, Summer 2006, pp. 349-358. *Academic Search Complete, Ebscohost*,