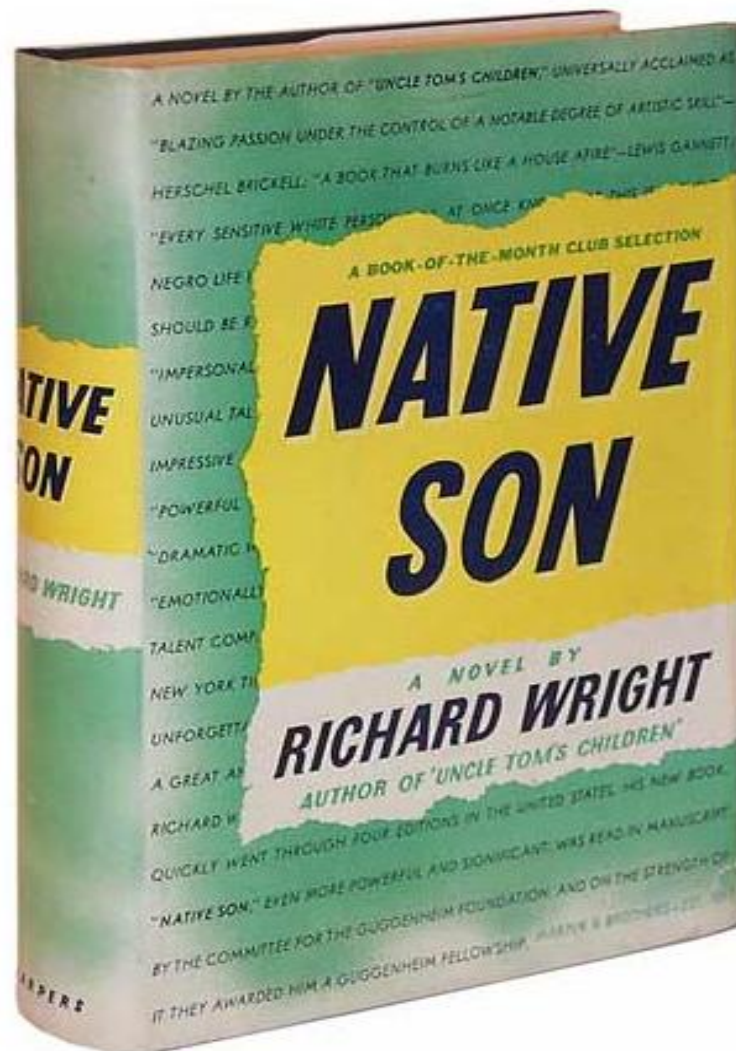


Native Son (1940)



A young African-American man in 1940's
America discovers "creation" through murder.



JADEN A. EARLY IS BIGGER THOMAS IN *NATIVE SON*,
OPENING APRIL 14

The author, Richard Wright



The author, Richard Wright

- 1908 - 1960



The author, Richard Wright

- 1908 – 1960
- Author of more than 15 books (fiction and non-fiction)



The author, Richard Wright

- 1908 – 1960
- Author of more than 15 books (fiction and non-fiction)
- Considered to be a philosopher as well as a writer



Background



Background



- Slavery and the Civil War

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws
- Southern migration into the northern cities

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws
- Southern migration into the northern cities
- Harlem Renaissance

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws
- Southern migration into the northern cities
- Harlem Renaissance
- Military integration

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws
- Southern migration into the northern cities
- Harlem Renaissance
- Military integration
- School integration

Background



- Slavery and the Civil War
- Sharecropping
- Jim Crow laws
- Southern migration into the northern cities
- Harlem Renaissance
- Military integration
- School integration
- Civil Rights Movement

Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!
- Communist Party:



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!
- Communist Party:
 1. loyalty to USSR



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!
- Communist Party:
 1. loyalty to USSR
 2. anti-capitalist



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!
- Communist Party:
 1. loyalty to USSR
 2. anti-capitalist
 3. racial equality



Native Son takes place in Chicago during Harlem Renaissance period

- Segregation
- “Black Belt”
- Social programs
- The City of Al Capone!
- Communist Party:
 1. loyalty to USSR
 2. anti-capitalist
 3. racial equality
 4. AKA “Reds” (flag)



Structure



Structure



- Title: Native Son

Structure



- Title: Native Son – what are the connotations of those words?

Structure



- Title: Native Son – what are the connotations of those words?
- “Subtitles”

Structure



- Title: Native Son – what are the connotations of those words?
- “Subtitles”
- 1. Fear

Structure



- Title: Native Son – what are the connotations of those words?
- “Subtitles”
 - 1. Fear
 - 2. Flight

Structure



- Title: Native Son – what are the connotations of those words?
- “Subtitles”
- 1. Fear
- 2. Flight
- 3. Fate

Symbolism



Symbolism



- How does Wright use vivid black and white symbols to bring out the themes in the book?

Symbolism



- How does Wright use vivid black and white symbols to bring out the themes in the book?
- The black rats?

Symbolism



- How does Wright use vivid black and white symbols to bring out the themes in the book?
- The black rats?
- The black fence around the Daltons' white house?

Symbolism



- How does Wright use vivid black and white symbols to bring out the themes in the book?
- The black rats?
- The black fence around the Daltons' white house?
- The snow storm?

Breakthrough



Breakthrough

- Why does Bigger fear Jan at first?



Breakthrough

- Why does Bigger fear Jan at first?
- How does he feel about Jan at the end?



Breakthrough

- Why does Bigger fear Jan at first?
- How does he feel about Jan at the end?
- What happened in between?



Breakthrough

- Why does Bigger fear Jan at first?
- How does he feel about Jan at the end?
- What happened in between?
- Ironically, what does Jan symbolize?



Breakthrough

- Why does Bigger fear Jan at first?
- How does he feel about Jan at the end?
- What happened in between?
- Ironically, what does Jan symbolize?
- What's Wright's message here?



Audience



Audience

- To whom is Wright directing this novel?



Audience

- To whom is Wright directing this novel?
- What did he want them to know?



Audience

- To whom is Wright directing this novel?
- What did he want them to know?



Audience

- To whom is Wright directing this novel?
- What did he want them to know?
- How did he use Bigger as a warning?



Audience

- To whom is Wright directing this novel?
- What did he want them to know?
- How did he use Bigger as a warning?
- How did he use Bigger as an exemplar?



Themes



Themes



- What are some of the themes of Native Son?

Themes



- What are some of the themes of Native Son?
- How do you know?

Themes



- What are some of the themes of Native Son?
- How do you know?
- What does Wright do to bring out these themes in the book?

Themes



- What are some of the themes of Native Son?
- How do you know?
- What does Wright do to bring out these themes in the book?
- Is Native Son relevant today?