

Alliance Theatre

2 One Act Plays By Pearl Cleage
Hospice + Pointing at the Moon
Directed by Timothy Douglas



March 23 – April 15, 2018
Fulton County Southwest Arts Center
915 New Hope Road, SW, Atlanta, GA 30331

Study Guide for Grades 9-12

Created as part of the Alliance Theatre Institute Dramaturgy by Students program by students from Benjamin E. Mays High School and Maynard Jackson High School under the guidance of Theresa Davis, Teaching Artist and Garnetta Penn and Adrienne Edwards, Teachers

Table of Contents

The Playwright: Pearl Cleage.....	page 2
<i>Hospice + Pointing at the Moon</i> : Curriculum Connections	page 3

Section I: *Hospice*

<i>Hospice</i> : Synopsis.....	page 4
<i>Hospice</i> : Pre- and Post-Show Discussion Questions.....	page 4
<i>Hospice</i> : Written Response Prompts.....	page 5
<i>Hospice</i> : Characterization Graphic Organizer	page 6
<i>Hospice</i> : Historical Figures.....	pages 7-10
<i>Hospice</i> : Historical Events and Places.....	page 11
<i>Hospice</i> : Vocabulary	page 12
<i>Hospice</i> : Works Cited.....	page 13

Section II: *Pointing at the Moon*

<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Synopsis.....	page 14
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Pre- and Post-Show Discussion Questions.....	page 14
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Written Response Prompts.....	page 14
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Historical Figures.....	pages 15-17
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Events and Places.....	pages 18-19
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Vocabulary.....	page 20
<i>Pointing at the Moon</i> : Works Cited.....	page 21

The Playwright: Pearl Cleage



Pearl Cleage (born December 7, 1948) is an African American author whose work, both fiction and non-fiction, has been widely recognized. Her novel *What Looks Like Crazy on an Ordinary Day* was a 1998 Oprah Book Club selection. Cleage is known for her feminist views, particularly regarding her identity as an African American woman. Cleage teaches drama at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia and is the Playwright in Residence at the Alliance Theatre.

Hospice + Pointing at the Moon: Curriculum Connections

Georgia Standards of Excellence - English Language Arts

ELAGSE9-10RL1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

ELAGSE9-10RL2: Determine a theme and/or central idea of text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text.

ELAGSE9-10RL3: Analyze how complex characters (e.g. those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.

ELAGSE9-10RL4: Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the cumulative impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone (e.g. how the language evokes a sense of time and place; how it sets a formal or informal tone).

ELAGSE9-10RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g. parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g. pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise.

Georgia Performance Standards – Theatre Arts

TAHSTLI.1: Analyzing and constructing meaning from theatrical experiences, dramatic literature, and electronic media

- a. Interprets the meaning of dramatic literature as a reflection of the human experience
- b. Identifies how the elements of dramatic literature convey meaning

TAHSTLI.4: Designing and executing artistic and technical elements of theatre

- b. Analyzes a variety of dramatic texts from cultural and historical perspectives to determine production requirements

TAHSTLI.5: Directing by conceptualizing, organizing, and conducting rehearsals for performance

- a. Develops multiple interpretations and production choices for a given script and selects the most effective combination
- b. Justifies selection of text, interpretation, visual, aural, and artistic choices

TAHSTLII.6: Researching cultural and historical information to support artistic choices

- a. Traces the development of theatre from early storytelling to contemporary performance art
- b. Identifies and summarizes contributions made to the development of the theatre by different cultures and traditions
- c. Researches and explains how cultural and historical factors have influenced theatre practitioners of various generations
- d. Analyzes the characteristics and important eras and movements in theatre and theatre literature

Hospice: Synopsis

When Jenny Anderson left her lover and moved into her grandmother's unoccupied house to await the birth of her first child, the last person she expected to show up was her gravely ill mother, ex-patriot poet, Alice Anderson, who she has not seen for twenty years. Leaving her activist husband and ten year old daughter, Alice moved to Paris in 1965 to pursue her dreams of writing, free from American racism and the demands of being the devoted wife of a Civil Rights leader. She returns home hoping to die as she has lived, by her own rules. But Jenny is determined to find answers to questions she has waited a lifetime to ask and Alice is forced to come to terms with the effect of her flight on the daughter she left behind.

The play was first produced by Woodie King, Jr., at the New Federal Theatre in 1983. The premiere production was honored with five AUDELCO Awards for achievement off-Broadway, including Best Play, Best Playwright, Best Director and Best Actress.

Hospice: Pre-Show Discussion Questions

1. What is hospice?
2. What are some reasons that families or individual might consider hospice?
3. Have you ever had a family member or loved one with a terminal illness?
4. Have you ever had a fight with your parents?
5. Can you imagine a disagreement with a family member that might cause you to cut them out of your life?
6. What is Lamaze?

Hospice: Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. What is Alice's definition of hospice?
2. Why do you think Alice had no interest in meeting her grandchild?
3. Alice takes comfort from music. What activity brings you comfort?

Hospice: Written Response Prompts

1. If you were Billie Holiday's gardenia, what would you say?
2. Create a postcard from Paris.
3. Write a poem from the perspective of the Audubon Ballrooms reaction to the assassination of Malcolm X.
4. Review the list of quotes attributed to three historical figures Cleage references in *Hospice*: Malcom X, Stokely Carmichael, and Josephine Baker.
 - ☐ Pick the one quote you think is most powerful.
 - ☐ Describe why you chose the quote. What is its message, and why does it speak to you?
 - ☐ Explain how the message of your selected quote connects to a central idea or theme in the play, *Hospice*.

Malcom X

"A man who stands for nothing will fall for anything."

"Don't be in a hurry to condemn because he doesn't do what you do or think as you think or as fast. There was a time when you didn't know what you know today."

"There is no better than adversity. Every defeat, every heartbreak, every loss, contains its own seed, its own lesson on how to improve your performance next time."

"If you're not ready to die for it, put the word 'freedom' out of your vocabulary."

Stokely Carmichael

"If a white man wants to lynch me, that's his problem. If he's got the power to lynch me, that's my problem. Racism is not a question of attitude; it's a question of power."

"Our grandfathers had to run, run, run. My generation's out of breath. We ain't running no more."

Josephine Baker

"To realise our dreams we must decide to wake up."

"One day I realized I was living in a country where I was afraid to be black. It was only a country for white people. Not black. So I left. I had been suffocating in the United States... A lot of us left, not because we wanted to leave, but because we couldn't stand it anymore... I felt liberated in Paris."

Hospice: Characterization Graphic Organizer

We can better understand complex fictional characters by analyzing what they say, think, and do. Using the charts below, compose a claim about the main characters in *Hospice*, Jenny and Alice. Then, support your claim by citing evidence from the play.

JENNY

Jenny is... _____ (adjective 1) and _____ (adjective 2).

This claim is supported by the evidence, below:

In <i>Hospice</i> ...	Adjective 1	Adjective 2
Jenny says:		
Jenny thinks:		
Jenny does:		

ALICE

Alice is... _____ (adjective 1) and _____ (adjective 2).

This claim is supported by the evidence, below:

In <i>Hospice</i> ...	Adjective 1	Adjective 2
Alice says:		
Alice thinks:		
Alice does:		

Hospice: Historical Figures



Anaïs Nin: French-born novelist, passionate eroticist and short story writer, who gained international fame with her journals. Spanning the years from 1931 to 1974, they give an account of one woman's voyage of self-discovery. "It's all right for a woman to be, above all, human. I am a woman first of all." (from *The Diary of Anaïs Nin*, vol. I, 1966)

Anaïs Nin was largely ignored until the 1960s. Today she is regarded as one of the leading female writers of the 20th century and a source of inspiration for women challenging conventionally defined gender roles.



Billie Holiday: was born Eleanora Fagan on April 7, 1915, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Some sources say her birthplace was Baltimore, Maryland, and her birth certificate reportedly reads "Elinore Harris.") Holiday spent much of her childhood in Baltimore. Her mother, Sadie, was only a teenager when she had her. Her father is widely believed to be Clarence Holiday, who eventually became a successful jazz musician, playing with the likes of Fletcher Henderson. Also known as Lady Day, her autobiography was made into the 1972 film *Lady Sings the Blues*. In 2000, Billie Holiday was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.



Cary Grant was an English actor who also held American Citizenship, known as one of classic Hollywood's definitive leading men. He began a career in Hollywood in the early 1930s, and became known for his transatlantic accent, debonair demeanor, and light-hearted approach to acting and sense of comic timing. Actor Cary Grant performed in films from the 1930s through the 1960s. He starred in several Hitchcock films, including the 1959 hit *North by Northwest*.

Duke Ellington: byname of Edward Kennedy Ellington, (born April 29, 1899, Washington, D.C., U.S.—died May 24, 1974, New York, N.Y.), American pianist who was the greatest jazz composer and bandleader. One of the originators of big-band jazz, Ellington led his band for more than half a century, composed thousands of scores, and created one of the most distinctive ensemble sounds in all of Western music.



Giacomo Puccini: Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini (born December 22, 1858, Lucca, Tuscany, Italy; died November 29, 1924, Brussels, Belgium). Italian composer, one of the greatest exponents of operatic realism, who virtually brought the history of Italian opera to an end. His mature operas include *La Bohème* (1896), *Tosca* (1900), *Madama Butterfly* (1904), and *Turandot*, left incomplete.



Joan Crawford: was born Lucille Fay LeSueur on March 23, 1905, in San Antonio, Texas, to Anna Belle (Johnson) and Thomas E. LeSueur, a laundry laborer. By the time she was born, her parents had separated, and by the time she was a teenager, she'd had three stepfathers. It wasn't an easy life; Crawford worked a variety of menial jobs. She was a good dancer, though, and -- perhaps seeing dance as her ticket to a career in show business -- she entered several contests, one of which landed her a spot in a chorus line. Before long, she was dancing in big Midwestern and East Coast cities. After almost two years, she packed her bags and moved to Hollywood. Crawford was determined to succeed, and shortly after arriving she got her first bit part, as a showgirl in *Pretty Ladies* (1925).



Josephine Baker: Born Freda Josephine McDonald on June 3, 1906, in St. Louis, Missouri, Josephine Baker spent her youth in poverty before learning to dance and finding success on Broadway. In the 1920s she moved to France and soon became one of Europe's most popular and highest-paid performers. She worked for the French Resistance during World War II, and during the 1950s and '60s devoted herself to fighting segregation and racism in the United States. After beginning her comeback to the stage in 1973, Josephine Baker died of a cerebral hemorrhage on April 12, 1975, and was buried with military honors.

Katharine Hepburn: Born May 12, 1907 in Hartford, Connecticut, she was the daughter of a doctor and a suffragette, both of whom always encouraged her to speak her mind, develop it fully, and exercise her body to its full potential. An athletic tomboy as a child, she was also very close to her brother, Tom, and was devastated at age 14 to find him dead, the apparent result of accidentally hanging himself while practicing a hanging trick their father had taught them. For many years after this, Katharine used his birthdate, November 8, as her own. She then became very shy around girls her age, and was largely schooled at home. She did attend Bryn Mawr College, however, and it was here that she decided to become an actress, appearing in many of their productions.

After graduating, she began getting small roles in plays on Broadway and elsewhere. She always attracted attention in these parts, especially for her role in *"Art and Mrs. Bottle"* (1931); then, she finally broke into stardom when she took the starring role of the Amazon princess Antiope in *"A Warrior's Husband"* (1932). The inevitable film offers followed, and after making a few screen tests, she was cast in *A Bill of Divorcement* (1932), opposite John Barrymore. The film was a hit, and after agreeing to her salary demands, RKO signed her to a contract. She made five films between 1932 and 1934. For her third, *Morning Glory* (1933) she won her first Academy Award. Her fourth, *Little Women* (1933) was the most successful picture of its day.

Langston Hughes: an American poet, novelist, and playwright whose African-American themes made him a primary contributor to the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s.

Langston Hughes was born on February 1, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri. He published his first poem in 1921. He attended Columbia University, but left after one year to travel. His poetry was later promoted by Vachel Lindsay, and Hughes published his first book in 1926. He went on to write countless works of poetry, prose and plays, as well as a popular column for the *Chicago Defender*. He died on May 22, 1967.





Leontyne Price: was born on February 10, 1927, in Laurel, Mississippi. Renowned for her early stage and television work, Price made her opera stage debut at the San Francisco Opera in 1957, and her debut at New York City's Metropolitan Opera House in 1961. Widely regarded as one of the first African-American singers to earn international acclaim in opera, Price is known for her roles in // *Trovatore*, *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Aida*.

Malcolm X: the activist and outspoken public voice of the Black Muslim faith, challenged the mainstream civil rights movement and the nonviolent pursuit of integration championed by Martin Luther King Jr. He urged followers to defend themselves against white aggression "by any means necessary." Born Malcolm Little, he changed his last name to X to signify his rejection of his "slave" name. Charismatic and eloquent, Malcolm became an influential leader of the Nation of Islam, which combined Islam with black nationalism and sought to encourage and enfranchise disadvantaged young blacks searching for confidence in segregated America. After Malcolm X's death in 1965, his bestselling book *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* popularized his ideas, particularly among black youth, and laid the foundation for the Black Power movement of the late 1960s and 1970s.



On February 21, 1965, Malcolm was assassinated while delivering a lecture at the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem; three members of the Nation of Islam were convicted of the murder. He was survived by his wife, Betty Shabazz, whom he married in 1958, and six daughters. His martyrdom, ideas, and speeches contributed to the development of black nationalist ideology and the Black Power movement and helped to popularize the values of autonomy and independence among African Americans in the 1960s and '70s.



Norma Shearer: won a beauty contest at age fourteen. In 1920 her mother, Edith Shearer, took Norma and her sister Athole Shearer (Mrs. Howard Hawks) to New York. Ziegfeld rejected her for his "Follies," but she got work as an extra in several movies. She spent much money on eye doctor's services trying to correct her cross-eyed stare caused by a muscle weakness. Irving Thalberg had seen her early acting efforts and, when he joined Louis B. Mayer in 1923, gave her a five year contract. He thought she should retire after their marriage, but she wanted bigger parts. In 1927, she insisted on firing the director Viktor Tourjansky because he was unsure of her cross-eyed stare. Her first talkie was in *The Trial of Mary Dugan* (1929); four movies later, she won an Oscar in *The Divorcee* (1930). She intentionally cut down film exposure during the 1930s, relying on major roles in Thalberg's prestige projects: *The Barretts of Wimpole Street* (1934) and *Romeo and Juliet* (1936) (her fifth Oscar nomination). Thalberg died of a second heart attack in September, 1936, at age 37. Norma wanted to retire, but MGM more-or-less forced her into a six-picture contract. David O. Selznick offered her the part of Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* (1939), but public objection to her cross-eyed stare killed the deal. She starred in *The Women* (1939), turned down the starring role in *Mrs. Miniver* (1942), and retired in 1942. Later that year she married

Sun Valley ski instructor Martin Arrouge, eleven years younger than she (he waived community property rights). From then on, she shunned the limelight; she was in very poor health the last decade of her life.



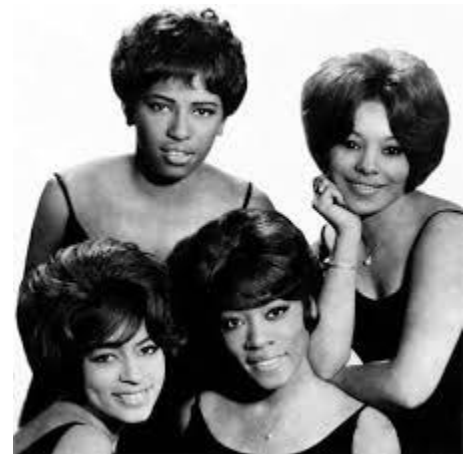
Smokey Robinson: Born in Detroit, Michigan, on February 19, 1940, Smokey Robinson is second to only Berry Gordy in the founding of Motown. A prolific songwriter, he is credited with 4,000 songs and 37 Top 40 hits, including *Tears of a Clown*, *Tracks of My Tears* and *Love Machine*. Robinson also served as vice president of Motown records, writing and producing hits for groups such as The Temptations (*My Girl*) and Mary Wells (*My Guy*).



Stokely Carmichael: a U.S. civil-rights activist who in the 1960s originated the black nationalism rallying slogan, "black power." Born in Trinidad, he immigrated to New York City in 1952. While attending Howard University, he joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and was jailed for his work with Freedom Riders. He moved away from MLK Jr's non violence approach to self-defense.

An inspired orator, persuasive essayist, effective organizer and expansive thinker, Carmichael stands out as one of the preeminent figures of the American civil rights movement. His tireless spirit and radical outlook are perhaps best captured by the greeting with which he answered his telephone until his dying day: "Ready for the revolution!"

The Chiffons: In 1960, the Chiffons formed at James Monroe High School in the Bronx, New York. The lead singer was 14 year old Judy Craig (born August 6, 1946), and she sang along with Patricia Bennett (born April 7, 1947) and Barbara Lee (born February 6, 1944). It was at the after school center that they met writer/manager/entrepreneur Ronnie Mack. Mack's claim to fame at that time was as a local Philadelphia hit by Little Jimmy and the Tops called "Puppy Love." Though partial to his own songs, Mack got wind of a new Luther Dixon-Shirley Owens composition in the summer of 1960. Owens was lead singer of the Shirelles, so it was only natural that they record the song "Tonight's the Night." Mack decided that the one way to get publicity would be have the unknown Chiffons cover "Tonight's the Night" and to fight it out on the charts with the more established Shirelles.



The Supremes: The most successful American performers of the 1960s, The Supremes for a time rivalled even The Beatles reeling off five No.1 singles in a row. The Supremes were the most commercially successful of Motown's acts and are, to date, America's most successful vocal group with 12 No.1 singles on the Billboard Hot 100.

In 1959 two fifteen year olds, Florence Ballard and Mary Wilson, met at a talent show. Milton Jenkins, who managed a local doo wop group the Primes, wanted a sister group to accompany the Primes for stage performances. Jenkins asked Ballard to put together such an act.

Ballard remembered Wilson and the two of them brought in sixteen year old Betty Travis. Prime's member Paul Williams, (who went on to form the Temptations), recommended a fifteen year old from Detroit's Brewster Housing project, Diane Ross. Jenkins named the group the Primettes after Diane's parents gave their permission for her to join.

Hospice: Historical Events and Places



Audubon Ballroom: was built in 1912 by film producer William Fox, who later founded the Fox Film Corporation. Fox hired Thomas W. Lamb, one of the foremost American theater architects, to design the building. The building contained a theatre with 2500 seats, and a second-floor ballroom that could accommodate 200 seated guests. During its history, the Audubon Ballroom was used as a vaudeville house, a movie theater, and a meeting hall where political activists often met.

After Malcolm X left the Nation of Islam in 1964, he founded the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU), whose weekly meetings were held at the Audubon Ballroom. It was at one of those meetings, on February 21, 1965, that Malcolm X was assassinated as he was giving a speech.



Soweto: came to the world's attention on 16 June 1976 with the Soweto Uprising, when mass protests erupted over the government's policy to enforce education in Afrikaans rather than their native language. Police opened fire in Orlando West on 10,000 students marching from Naledi High School to Orlando Stadium. The rioting continued and 23 people died on the first day in Soweto, 21 of whom were black, including the minor Hector Pieterse, as well as two white people, including Dr Melville Edelstein, a lifelong humanitarian.

The impact of the Soweto protests reverberated through the country and across the world. In their aftermath, economic and cultural sanctions were introduced from abroad. Political activists left the country to train for guerrilla resistance. Soweto and other townships became the stage for violent state repression. Since 1991 this date and the schoolchildren have been commemorated by the International Day of the African Child.



Watts Riots: In the predominantly black Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, racial tension reaches a breaking point after two white policemen scuffle with a black motorist suspected of drunken driving. A crowd of spectators gathered near the corner of Avalon Boulevard and 116th Street to watch the arrest and soon grew angry by what they believed to be yet another incident of racially motivated abuse by the police. A riot soon began, spurred on by residents of Watts who were embittered after years of economic and political isolation. The rioters eventually ranged over a 50-square-mile area of South Central Los Angeles, looting stores, torching buildings, and beating whites as snipers fired at police and firefighters. Finally, with the assistance of thousands of National Guardsmen, order was restored on August 16.

The five days of violence left 34 dead, 1,032 injured, nearly 4,000 arrested, and \$40 million worth of property destroyed. The Watts riot was the worst urban riot in 20 years and foreshadowed the many rebellions to occur in ensuing years during the 1967 Detroit Riots, the Newark Riots, and other violence.

Hospice: Vocabulary

Avante Garde (n.): new and unusual or experimental ideas, especially in the arts, or the people introducing them

Bed Jacket (n.): a lightweight jacket worn to cover the chest, shoulders and arms while sitting up in bed

Bohemian (n.): a person (such as a writer or an artist) living an unconventional life usually in a colony with others

Carpet Bag (n.): a traveling bag of a kind originally made of carpeting or carpet like material

Chemotherapy (n.): the treatment of disease by the use of chemical substances, especially the treatment of cancer by cytotoxic and other drugs

Cynical (adj.): believing that people are motivated by self-interest; distrustful of human sincerity or integrity

Ex-patriot (n.): one who has left one's native country to live elsewhere

Gardenia (n.): a tree or shrub of the bedstraw family, with large fragrant white or yellow flowers

Heroine (n.): a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities

Hospice care (n.): is that which can be provided to patients with a life expectancy of six months or less. Rather than seeking a cure, hospice care aims to make their remaining time as comfortable and as meaningful as possible. This may mean pain relief and nursing care, but also includes emotional support and help with everyday tasks

La maze (n.): relating to or being a method of childbirth that involves psychological and physical preparation in various techniques (as controlled breathing and alternative birthing positions) by the mother in order to reduce pain and facilitate delivery without unnecessary medical intervention

Liet motiv (n.): an associated melodic phrase or figure that accompanies the reappearance of an idea, person, or situation especially in a Wagnerian music drama

Pernod (n.): an anise-flavored liqueur

Posterity (n.): all future generations of people

Record Player (n.): an apparatus for reproducing sound from phonograph records, comprising a turntable that spins the record at a constant speed

Straightening Comb (n.): a metal comb that is used to straighten moderate or coarse hair and create a smoother hair texture

The Left Bank (n.): the bohemian district of Paris on the left bank of the Seine River

Touché: an acknowledgment during a discussion of a good or clever point made at one's expense by another person

Hospice: Works Cited

<http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/watts-riot-begins>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Audubon_Ballroom

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soweto>

<https://www.biography.com/people/josephine-baker-9195959>

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/7190.Ana_s_Nin

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Malcolm-X>

<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/malcolm-x>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Duke-Ellington>

<http://www.history.com/topics/black-history/stokely-carmichael>

<https://www.biography.com/people/langston-hughes-9346313>

<http://www.history-of-rock.com/chiffons.htm>

<https://www.biography.com/people/smokey-robinson-9460972>

http://www.thisdayinmusic.com/pages/the_supremes

<https://www.biography.com/people/billie-holiday-9341902>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Giacomo-Puccini>

<http://www.metopera.org/Season/In-Cinemas/SynopsisCast/Madama-Butterfly/>

<https://www.biography.com/people/leontyne-price-9446930>

http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0790454/bio?ref =nm_ov_bio_sm

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000031/bio>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001076/bio>

Pointing at the Moon: Synopsis

Thirty years after *Hospice*, Jenny Anderson, now almost 60, is a well-respected scholar and literary critic who finds herself reluctantly drawn into the swirl of political and cultural changes that began after the 2016 American Presidential election. Despite her efforts to remain safely above the fray as a tenured college faculty member, she suddenly finds everything she's worked for threatened by efforts to censor and suppress creative work, including her own. When a young activist shows up at her door late one night with an urgent request for help, Jenny has to choose between her own comfortable life and her deeply held beliefs about the nature of freedom.

Pointing at the Moon: Pre-Show Discussion Questions

1. What is a funeral?
2. What is the difference between a funeral and a homecoming?
3. Have you ever grown your own food?
4. How do you experience books? Ownership? On Kindle? At the library?
5. What age do you consider old? Why?

Pointing at the Moon: Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. What does Isabel mean when she quotes Audre Lorde as saying, "You can't dismantle the master's house using the master's tools."
2. What is your preferred way to get to the truth?
3. Where did the phrase "alternative facts" originate? Do you believe it is possible to have alternative facts?
4. Do you think old people can give advice that is relevant to young people?

Pointing at the Moon: Written Response Prompts

1. Write a fictional advice column about school, family, and/or the past. This will require you to pose a question (in the voice of one character) as well as compose an answer (in the voice of another character, the columnist).
2. Write a eulogy for your favorite childhood memento.

Pointing at the Moon: Historical Figures

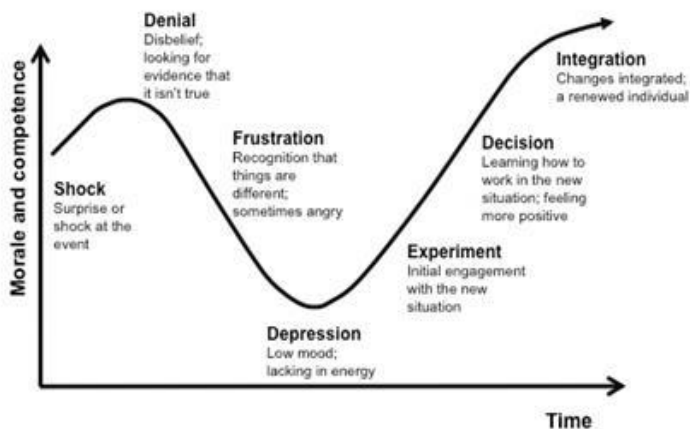


Alice Walker: born on February 9, 1944 in Putnam County, Georgia. She is an accomplished American poet, novelist, and activist. Alice Malsenior Walker is an American novelist, short story writer, poet, and activist. She wrote the novel *The Color Purple* for which she won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. She also wrote the novels *Meridian* and *The Third Life of Grange Copeland*, among other works, which include the following: *Everyday Use*, *Possessing the Secret of Joy*, and *In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose*.



Audre Lorde: Born in New York City on February 18, 1934, Audre Lorde was a writer, feminist, womanist, librarian, and civil rights activist. As a poet, she is best known for technical mastery and emotional expression, as well as her poems that express anger and outrage at civil and social injustices she observed throughout her life. Her poems and prose largely deal with issues related to civil rights, feminism, and the exploration of black female identity. Some of her works include the following: *Sister Outsider*, *Coal*, *The Cancer Journals*, and *Uses of the Erotic*.

The Kübler-Ross change curve



Elizabeth Kubler-Ross: The Kübler-Ross model, otherwise known as the five stages of grief, postulates a series of emotions experienced by terminally ill patients prior to death, or people presented by the loss of a loved one, wherein the five stages are denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance.

The model was first introduced by Swiss psychiatrist Elizabeth Kübler-Ross in her 1969 book *On Death and Dying*, and was inspired by her work with terminally ill patients. Motivated by the lack of instruction in medical schools on the subject of death and dying, Kübler-Ross examined death and those faced with it at the University of Chicago medical school. Kübler-Ross' project evolved into a series of seminars which, along with patient interviews and previous research,

became the foundation for her book. Since the publication of *On Death and Dying*, the Kübler-Ross model has become accepted by the general public; however, its validity is not consistently supported by the majority of research.

Kübler-Ross noted later in life that the stages are not a linear and predictable progression and that she regretted writing them in a way that was misunderstood. Rather, they are a collation of five common experiences for the bereaved that can occur in any order, if at all.



Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks: was born on June 7, 1917, in **Topeka, Kansas**. When Brooks was six weeks old, her family moved to **Chicago** as part of the Great Migration. Gwendolyn Elizabeth Brooks was an African-American poet, author, and teacher. Her work often dealt with the personal celebrations and struggles of ordinary people in her community. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry on May 1, 1950, for *Annie Allen* making her the first African American to receive the Pulitzer. Her works include the following: *Annie Allen*, *Maud Martha*, *Blacks*, *In the Mecca*, and *Bronzeville Boys and Girls*. **Awards:** Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1950); United States Poet Laureate (1985); Robert Frost Medal (1989); Anisfield-Wolf Book Award (1969); Jefferson Lecture (1994); Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts, US & Canada (1946); Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (1994)



Maya Angelou: Born on April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri, Maya Angelou was an American poet, memoirist, and civil rights activist. She published seven autobiographies, three books of essays, several books of poetry, and was credited with a list of plays, movies, and television shows spanning over 50 years. She received dozens of awards and more than 50 honorary degrees. Angelou is best known for her series of seven autobiographies, which focus on her childhood and early adult experiences. The first, *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, tells of her life up to the age of 17 and brought her international recognition and acclaim. Many of her other great works include the following: *On the Pulse of Morning*, *And Still I Rise*, *Mom & Me & Mom*, and *Gather Together in My Name*.



Nikki Giovanni: Poet and writer Nikki Giovanni was born Yolande Cornelia Giovanni, Jr., was born on June 7, 1943, in Knoxville, Tennessee. Giovanni is a prominent poet and writer who first caught the public's attention as part of the Black Arts movement of the late 1960s. Some of works include the following: *Hip Hop Speaks to Children: A Celebration of Poetry with a Beat*, *Love Poems*, *Racism 101*, and *Cotton Candy on a Rainy Day*. Awards: American Book Awards (2008); NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Fiction (2003); NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work - Poetry



of being a black female in America.

Ntozake Shange: Ntozake Shange was born Paulette Williams into an upper middle-class African-American family. Her father was an Air Force surgeon and her mother a psychiatric social worker. Cultural icons like Dizzie Gillespie, Miles Davis and W.E.B. DuBois were regular guests in the Williams home. Shange attended Barnard College and UCLA, earning both a bachelors and master degree in American Studies. Shange's college years were difficult, however, and frustrated and hurt after separating from her first husband, she attempted suicide several times before focusing her rage against the limitations society imposes on black women. While earning a master's degree, she reaffirmed her personal strength based on a self-determined identity and took her African name, which means "she who comes with her own things" and she "who walks like a lion." Since then she has sustained a triple career as an educator, a performer/director, and a writer whose work draws heavily on her experiences



Prince: Prince Rogers Nelson (June 7, 1958 – April 21, 2016) was an American singer, songwriter, record producer, actor, and director who was known for his eclectic work, flamboyant stage presence, extravagant dress and makeup, and wide vocal range. His innovative music integrated a wide variety of styles, including funk, rock, jazz, R&B, new wave, soul, psychedelia, and pop. He has sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the best-selling music artists of all time. He won eight Grammy Awards, six American Music Awards, a Golden Globe Award, and an Academy Award for the 1984 film *Purple Rain*. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004.

Prince was born in Minneapolis and developed an interest in music as a young child. He signed a recording contract with Warner Bros. Records at the age of 17, and released his debut album *For You* in 1978. His 1979 album *Prince* went platinum, and his next three records—*Dirty Mind* (1980), *Controversy* (1981), and *1999* (1982)—continued his success, showcasing Prince's prominently sexual lyrics and blending of funk, dance, and rock music. In 1984, he began referring to his backup band as The Revolution and released *Purple Rain*, the soundtrack album to his film debut. It quickly became his most critically and commercially successful release, spending 24 consecutive weeks atop the *Billboard* 200 and selling over 20 million copies worldwide. After releasing the albums *Around the World in a Day* (1985) and *Parade* (1986), The Revolution disbanded, and Prince released the double album *Sign o' the Times* (1987) as a solo artist. He released three more solo albums before debuting The New Power Generation band in 1991.

In 1993, while in a contractual dispute with Warner Bros., he changed his stage name to ♀, an unpronounceable symbol also known as the "Love Symbol", and began releasing new albums at a faster pace to remove himself from contractual obligations. He released five records between 1994 and 1996 before signing with Arista Records in 1998. In 2000, he began referring to himself as "Prince" again. He released 16 albums after that, including the platinum-selling *Musicology* (2004). His final album, *Hit n Run Phase Two*, was first released on the Tidal streaming service on December 2015. Five months later, Prince died of a fentanyl overdose at his Paisley Park recording studio and home in Chanhassen, Minnesota, at the age of 57.



Sonia Sanchez: born Wilsonia Benita Driver; September 9, 1934, Sonia Sanchez is an African-American poet most often associated with the Black Arts Movement. She has authored over a dozen books of poetry, as well as short stories, critical essays, plays, and children's books. She was a recipient of 1993 Pew Fellowships in the Arts. In 2001, Sanchez was the recipient of the Robert Frost Medal for her poetry and has been influential to other African-American female poets, including Krista Franklin. Some of her works include the following: *I've Been a Woman*, *Does Your House Have Lions?*, *Wounded in the house of a friend*. Awards: American Book Awards (1985); Robert Frost Medal (2001)

Toni Morrison: born Chloe Ardelia Wofford; February 18, 1931, is an American novelist, editor, teacher, and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University. Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award in 1988 for *Beloved*. Some of her other awards include the following: Nobel Prize in Literature (1993), Presidential Medal of Freedom (2012), American Book Awards (1988), and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, Fiction. Some of her works are the following: *The Bluest Eye*, *Song of Solomon*, and *Sula and God Help The Child*.





1960s ("The Sixties"): a decade that began on 1 January 1960, and ended on 31 December 1969. The term "1960s" also refers to an era more often called the Sixties, denoting the complex of inter-related cultural and political trends around the globe. This "cultural decade" is more loosely defined than the actual decade, beginning around 1963 with the Kennedy assassination and ending around 1974 with the Watergate scandal.

1999 (Y2K, "The End of the World"): also called Year 2000 bug or Millennium Bug, a problem in the coding of computerized systems that was projected to create havoc in computers and computer networks around the world at the beginning of the year 2000 (in metric measurements K stands for thousand).



Paschal's: Located downtown Atlanta, in the Castleberry Hill Arts District, Paschal's has a rich history that dates back to 1947 when the Paschal brothers, James and Robert Paschal opened their first location at 831 West Hunter Street in Atlanta, Georgia. The brothers decided 'Fried Chicken' would be the specialty of the house, and with that mandate, Robert created his 'secret recipe'.

Paschal's Restaurant became the 'meeting place' for some of the most notable entertainers, politicians, and business people, including Aretha Franklin, Dizzy Gillespie, Andrew Young, Maynard Jackson, Vice President Al Gore, and Dr. Martin Luther King just to name a few. In 2002, James Paschal and Herman J. Russell would join forces to create a 21st century version of Paschal's Restaurant located in the Castleberry Hill area.



Sardi's: a continental restaurant located at 234 West 44th Street (between Broadway and Eighth Avenue) in the Theater District in Manhattan, in New York City. Known for the hundreds of caricatures of show-business celebrities that adorn its walls, Sardi's opened at its current location on March 5, 1927.

Sardi's is the birthplace of the Tony Award; after Antoinette Perry's death in 1946, her partner, theatrical producer and director, Brock Pemberton, was eating lunch at Sardi's when he came up with the idea of a theater award to be given in Perry's honor. For many years Sardi's was the location where Tony Award nominations were announced. Vincent Sardi Sr. received a special Tony Award in 1947, the first year of the awards, for "providing a transient home and comfort station for theatre folk at Sardi's for 20 years." In 2004, Vincent Sardi Jr. received a Tony Honor for Excellence in the Theatre. Sardi's is also the venue for the presentation of the Outer Critics Circle Awards, as well as many other Broadway events, press conferences, and celebrations.

The restaurant is today considered a Broadway institution, to the point that composer Stephen Sondheim pointed to it when lamenting the changing climate of New York theater in a 2000 interview. Asked about the Broadway community, Sondheim replied, "There's none whatsoever. The writers write one show every two or three years. Who congregates at Sardi's? What is there to congregate about? Shows just sit in theaters and last."



The West End (Atlanta, GA): The West End neighborhood of Atlanta is on the National Register of Historic Places and can be found southwest of Castleberry Hill, east of Westview, west of Adair Park Historic District, and just north of Oakland City. It would be difficult to find a neighborhood more closely linked to the city's, state's, region's, and nation's historical development than the West End district of Atlanta. Architectural styles within the district include Craftsman Bungalow, Queen Anne, Stick style, Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, American Foursquare and Neoclassical Revival.

Pointing at the Moon: Vocabulary

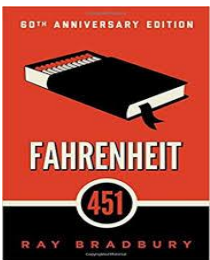


Buddhism (n.): a religion and dharma that encompasses a variety of traditions, beliefs and spiritual practices largely based on original teachings attributed to the Buddha and resulting interpreted philosophies. Buddhism originated in Ancient India sometime between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE, from where it spread through much of Asia, where after it declined in India during the Middle Ages. Two major extant branches of Buddhism are generally recognized by scholars: Theravada (Pali: "The School of the Elders") and Mahayana (Sanskrit: "The Great Vehicle"). Buddhism is the world's fourth-largest religion, with over 520 million followers or over 7% of the global population, known as Buddhists.

Catalyst (n.): a substance that enables a chemical reaction to proceed at a usually faster rate or under different conditions (as at a lower temperature) than otherwise possible; an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action

Censor (n.): a person who supervises conduct and morals, such as an official who examines materials (such as publications or films) for objectionable matter

E-Coli (n.): an enterobacterium (*Escherichia coli*) that is used in public health as an indicator of fecal pollution (as of water or food) and in medicine and genetics as a research organism and that occurs in various strains that may live as harmless inhabitants of the human lower intestine or may produce a toxin causing intestinal illness



Fahrenheit 451 (n.): a dystopian novel by American writer Ray Bradbury, published in 1953. It is regarded as one of his best works. The novel presents a future American society where books are outlawed and "firemen" burn any that are found. The book's tagline explains the title: "Fahrenheit 451 – the temperature at which book paper catches fire, and burns..." The lead character is a fireman named Montag who becomes disillusioned with the role of censoring works and destroying knowledge, eventually quitting his job and joining a resistance group who memorize and share the world's greatest literary and cultural works.

Impermanence (adj.): not lasting forever or not lasting for a long time

Feminism (n.): the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes

Magical Realism (n.):

1. painting in a meticulously realistic style of imaginary or fantastic scenes or images
2. a literary genre or style associated especially with Latin America that incorporates fantastic or mythical elements into otherwise realistic fiction

Precocious (adj.): exhibiting mature qualities at an unusually early age

Tenure (n.): relating to or being a teaching position that may lead to a grant of tenure

Touchstone (n.): a fundamental or quintessential part or feature

Triple Threat (n.): a person adept in three different fields of activity

Pointing at the Moon: Works Cited

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ntozake-shange>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/audre-lorde>

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.biography.com/.amp/people/alice-walker-9521939>

https://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1993/morrison-bio.html

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/nikki-giovanni>

<http://soniasanchez.net/bio/>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ntozake-Shange>

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/Expatriot>

<https://m.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/maya-angelou>

<https://www.micahmwhite.com/on-the-masters-tools/>

<https://m.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/gwendolyn-brooks>

<http://sardis.com/htmldocs/cms/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2017/01/22/how-kellyanne-conway-ushered-in-the-era-of-alternative-facts/>

<https://www.thespruce.com/classic-manhattan-cocktail-759321>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wikie/Kübler-Ross_model