Ceremony- page 153-213 2/6/14

1. Is the Ceremony completed? Did it work? Focus on page 152 AND 169. What symbols does the author use and what do they signify?

The ceremony isn’t completed yet… Betonie tells Tayo that he still needs to find some things: stars, spotted cattle, a woman, mountain.

The white shells: bag- similar to Emo’s teeth, beads, stolen from a grave, on the end of a stick, they are haunted, they represent Indian soldiers/negative memories. They remind us of Emo’s teeth- the men he killed.

Female Giant warrior feeds on the souls of the Japanese warriors…

Scalp Ceremony- “satisfied” the souls, dreams, but he still has to overcome the other things he saw- the technology, the cities, the destruction of the bombs and war

Motif: Dreaming-

1. STARS: Old Betonie (and Tayo) dream the stars to guide Tayo to find the cattle. On page 187 and 179 we see them and read about their significance- What is it? What do they symbolize?

Tayo dreams speckled cattle- he sees where they are- he can’t catch them in his dream- “no peace” until he catches them. STARS symbolize the hope he has to follow to find them. Literally, they represent a specific pattern in the sky that appears in September.

Cattle: Josiah wanted the spotted cattle- because they seek out food and water in times of drought. Cattle represent Josiah’s dream to have a stock of cattle that are adapted to the land and weather- unlike the Herefords that have to be fed and watered.

1. “It was then too that the holy men at Laguna and Acoma warned the people that the balance of the world had been disturbed and the people could expect droughts and harder days to come” (186).

“As the Army doctors had told him: it was all superstition seeing Josiah when they shot those goddamn Japs; it was all superstition, believing that the rain had stopped coming because he had cursed it” (195).

Explain the two quotes- which give explanations for the drought. IS Tayo changing his mind?

The Laguna and Acoma blame the white people for the drought because they abused the land.

Tayo still believes that it is his fault that the rain stopped. He saw Josiah with the Japanese soldiers they shot because of the guilt of leaving him- going to war- left him to die. He still feels guilty about not being able to save Rocky- he promised his aunt that he would bring Rocky back alive… The army doctors telling him it is superstition didn’t help- they made it worse-

1. What is the significance of the Mountain Lion? How does it function as a symbol? (195-197 and 202) What happens when the snow falls?

Represents Rocky- as a guardian for Tayo

Mountain Lion- helps Tayo by making a trail for him to follow… to find the cattle… He gets captured by the cowboys… they beat him up, but then they follow it- leave Tayo alone to escape. The snow covers his tracks and the Mountain lion’s tracks.