

Righteous Dopefiends Study Guide

Chapters 1,2, and 5

Book report outline :

Tina is one of the most important characters in Righteous Dopefiend. Using the categories of race, gender, and class explains how Bourgois depicts Tina's life in the particular socio-cultural context of San Francisco.

Make sure to include the notions of physical, structural, and symbolic violence in your discussion. The report must be submitted electronically via BB to your Teaching Assistant by 9 pm on Friday, October 15th.

Your book report must be 2-3 pages long (excluding the references), typed (word-processed) in 12-point font (Times New Roman) and double- or 1½-spaced with page numbers at the bottom.

The report should read like a regular essay with a clear Introduction and Conclusion. Provide full references for all literature cited, including those on our syllabus (for example, when using the notion "symbolic violence" you are expected to cite Bourdieu's article and, possibly, the lecture). And remember to back up your job so you don't have to repeat your work!!! Your paper will be graded for content analysis (70 %) and academic writing (30%).

I've compiled some examples of Race, Gender and Class inequalities from our assigned reading chapters to help you get started on your essays. We're only required to read chapters 1,2,and 5, but these are enough to make a strong case for any argument you're making on the topic of physical structural and symbolic violence.

These chapters are so full of examples that it would be hard to highlight them all, but some key examples of each kind of violence and discrimination are highlighted on this document.

Many of these quotes are shortened or edited for brevity and clarity, do not copy and paste directly from this document. Find the quotes in the book and double check to make sure you are getting the full quote. All page numbers are provided.

Highlights are color coded to help you find quotes or pages that will be relevant to your claims, or you can use these colors to organize your thoughts :

Gender Violence / Racism / Class divisions /
Systemic / Symbolic / Physical violence

- a. Many of the men from Edgewater homeless have histories of domestic abuse, or show very misogynistic views towards their female family members, and or, the few women who live in Edgewater with them.
 - i. “Carter’s outrage against his niece, “disrespect” from a young girl in the household elicits especially abusive behavior by the unemployed, drug-using, alcoholic father striving to hold onto his waning male privilege.”
 - ii. “Once while Little Vic was present his twin sister Nina made a “smart” remark to her father. Victor picked her up by her 2 ponytails up to his shoulder height. Victor would also stand by the corner of our children’s school and yell obscenities at them as they were exiting the school ... and spit on [them].” (Page 38).
 - iii. “Victor Senior’s memories of himself as a family man are remarkably different from those of his wife. He clings to a discourse of responsible patriarchy, buttressed by romance and angelical faith.” (Page 39).
- b. “Shortly after nugging Frank, Little Vic drove off in his girlfriend’s SUV with another woman and disappeared on an extended crack binge across town. Before leaving, Little Vic ordered his girlfriend to stay with Felix under the I-beam. To enforce his mandate, he took her shoes, leaving her barefoot in the mud. Little Vic’s girlfriend remained semi-catatonic next to Felix’s mattress, ignoring our offers to help. At first, she did not touch any alcohol or drugs, but Tina reached out to her and, in a gesture of feminine solidarity, shared food with her. Soon they were smoking crack together and drinking malt liquor. Reactions to Little Vic’s girlfriend highlight the misogyny of street scenes.” (Page 40).
- c. Only One known Female Dealer - Carmon : “She carried a gun in her right pocket, and when a coke rush made her paranoid, she would pull it out to bolster her credibility as a woman dealer. Carmen eventually disappeared. It was rumored that she had been killed “turning tricks on Capp Street,” but we did not dare verify the details with Sal.” (Page 41).

5. Other risk factors of heroin use and homelessness -

- a. Isolated in his new camp, Hogan tearfully told anyone who would listen that his festering multiple abscesses were the result of AIDS. His formerly scornful

companions expressed sympathy and stopped by to give him wet cottons. (Page 36).

Ch. 2 - Falling in Love

P. 47-79

"I'm a woman and I'm gonna have my damn way because I'm gonna demand it. I've been in these damn streets all by myself a long time. Don't nobody wanna treat me like the way I wanna be treated...I'll let y'all know why I'm like this. Let me tell my story." —Tina
(Page 48).

Summary

Who is Tina?

Tina is the main focus of chapter 2, one of the very few women who live on the street, and the first, of the very few women we hear from in the whole ethnography.

"Tina projected a persona of defiant, unapologetic femininity. She dressed to the hilt in color-coordinated silk, satin, and leather outfits and identified herself publicly as an alcoholic. She spent most of her time and energy, moreover, in pursuit of crack, shopping from the stores on Edgewater Boulevard and throughout the Mission District. She also demanded money aggressively or seductively from friends, acquaintances, and strangers." (Page 48).

Chapter 2 Sections / Subheadings

Carving out a Women's Space on the Street

"Tina knew she could not depend on Carter, because, as she put it, "He ain't nothing but a righteous dopefiend." (Page 51).

The Common Sense of Sex Work

"Tina's mode of interacting with men openly merged affection with money. She had grown up surrounded by sex workers and pimps." (Page 52).

"Seeking material compensation from men for sex emerges as the commonsense adaptation of a vulnerable child struggling to decipher the turmoil among the men and women around her. In her search for adult love and affection, Tina learned the practical value of sex."