

So You Want to Talk About Race

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Chapter 9—Why can't I say the "n" word?

"All oppression in race, class, gender, ability, religion—it all began with words."

What is your personal experience with the "n" word? Growing up, when did you learn what this meant and what was intended by it?

What are some of the other slurs you've heard or experienced that are used to demean other people?

Chapter 10—What is cultural appropriation?

"We can broadly define the concept of cultural appropriation as the adoption or exploitation of another culture by a more dominant culture."

"What actually is not fair is the expectation that a dominant culture can just take and enjoy and profit from the beauty and art and creation of an oppressed culture, without taking on any of the pain and oppression people of that culture had to survive while creating it."

Do you understand what cultural appropriation is based on the story Oluo told about rap music? Can you think of some other examples of cultural appropriation you've experienced?

Chapter 11—Why can't I touch your hair?

I think Oluo's story about the question Oluo's boss asked her about her hair speaks for itself. As a white person I can't think of a single example where this, or something similar, has happened to me. How about you?