



Respectful Writing
Book: Respectable

Respectable is a collection of short stories and poems by young people from the Wheelock School. The book is a testament to the power of respectful writing and the importance of respecting others. The stories and poems are written by students who have learned the importance of respectful writing through their participation in the Wheelock School's Respectful Writing Program. The book is a beautiful example of the power of respectful writing and the importance of respecting others.



Character Study
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Author: [Name]

Editor: [Name]

Illustrator: [Name]



Ivory Coast guy

Fashion: Rough

An anonymous 17-year-old native of France. His parents moved from the Ivory Coast. May be considered one of the "French-born children of African and Arab immigrants, the most neglected of the country's citizens."

Involvement: One of the "black-sheeped youths" who have been ransacking the neighborhoods and cities of France in the 10 days and nights. When he had been interviewed one afternoon about his involvement in the riots, "he'd just awakened and returned back onto the streets after a night of setting cars ablaze."

Thoughts/Quotes: "We want to change the government. There's no way of getting their attention. The only way to communicate is by burning. We don't plan anything. We just hit whatever we find at the moment." The teenager along with his companions explain how they "dodge" the authorities by splitting into small groups, using their cellular telephones and text messaging to alert each other to the location of police and firefighters.

Why: As we can see from this boy's quote, he had fitted the description of the "rough" group on the Wheel. His passions and impulses were what drove him on his nightly rampages. He doesn't plan anything. It is a spontaneous action that only needs the slightest prompt. He is also born without power or privilege, among the youths living in the slums of France.

The Wheel of Respectability Respectability

Christine Cheng
5th hour US History

Who would have thought today's society is being divided and categorized by the exact "social class system" that was present about 200 years ago? That system was called the Wheel of Respectability. The "Wheel" as it shall be called, divided the population back in the 1800s by the level of productivity or skill a certain person contributed to good of society. A "respectable" person was the exemplar of the productive person. However, there were other deciding factors besides the level of productivity on the Wheel such as the Axis of Limits and the Axis of Power/Privilege. Self-control and the knowledge of limits were essential values to society back then. A person must know when enough is enough. A person was also to know his or her limits, the idea that was manifested in "limited upward mobility" (aspiring to achieve a goal, which was within a person's limits). People who did not work within the limits and were not self-controlled were placed in the proto-aristocratic and rough wheel sections. The difference between these two groups was that the proto-aristocrats were privileged and the rough were the powerless poor.

However, as we shall see, even the Wheel's ideas were being manifested in recent events such as the riots and bombings in France. The fires and unrest began on October 27, 2005, starting with an 11-year-old boy killed by electrocution and one boy escaped with



"Minister" NICOLAS SARKOZY *or affectionately known as SARKO*

Position: Proto-aristocratic.

Well, duh, he's trying to become the next "Le Président de France." Right? Interior Minister. He's climbing up that ladder leading as the "country's least ambitious (ring, ring, ring) Ambitious = bad quality to have *especially* when megalomaniacal" person and cannot "lose face."

Involvement: Let's see. How about we list his accomplishments so far, shall we? -Waging the "war without mercy" against criminals and other the poorer areas, specifically the rampaging youths -Managing to represent "all that the [youths] find abhorrent in the government. It doesn't help that he calls them "scum" and "thug"

Thoughts/Quotes: He makes the headlines by saying he would "karcherise" the ghettos or "clean the ghettos of scum." However, to truly understand what these "Karcher" = brand name of a system of cleaning surfaces that extremely violently blotter outer skin of encrusted dirt "even at the risk of damaging what's underneath. A verbal insult and is like "ethnic cleansing" meaning Sarkozy wants "raw police power and for very aggressively, with little regard for human rights." "Racaille" = calling the youths "subhuman, inherently evil and criminal, worthless... or most serious insults one could launch."

Why: This guy apparently has never heard of the words "limits" or "self control" as evident in his presidential campaign and (2) his "solution" to the youth riots. Sarkozy is detested by French President Jacques Chirac and his Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin because he openly campaigned to replace Chirac as president. Villepin even tried to block Sarkozy's for presidential nomination by becoming the Prime Minister, but he and Chirac have allowed Sarkozy complete control of the government in response to the youths in hopes that Sarkozy would damage his presidential campaign. Instead, because they allowed Sarkozy the chance no limits, he has gone beyond limits. His actions and thoughts are evidence of his notion of "Sarkozy complete control of the government in response to the youths in hopes that Sarkozy would damage his presidential campaign. Instead, because they allowed Sarkozy the chance no limits, he has gone beyond limits. His actions and thoughts are evidence of his notion of better than y'all scumbags" or constructed superiority you might say. He seems to think that can get away with it because he is practically "president." He is totally against the "rough/respectable" and "rough" group, which consist of most of the "rough/respectable" and "rough" group, which consist of most of the who support them. He has no regard for others who

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Keep out immigrants!

Position: *Respectable/proto-aristocratic.*

Summary: There is no specific individual to represent this group. However, there have been people in France who have also retaliated against the government, accusing it of "letting in too many immigrants over the years." In general, the people who have been complaining about the large number of immigrants in France (its Muslim population alone is estimated 5 million) are the ones from the richer suburban areas. France has been trying to assimilate its immigrant ethnic groups into its native population, but these recent events show how that has not happened, and many native French people *don't* want it to happen. The police is one example of this group. The police force has tried to shut down the violence that is happening; instead, their racial slurs and insults have actually increased it. Claude Angeli, editor of *Le Canard Enchaîné* said, "It's incredible the level of police racism—[the youths] are arrested or controlled and have their papers checked because they have dark skins, and the police are verbally brutal, calling them "bougnoles" and telling them, "Lower your eyes! Lower your eyes!" as if they had no right to look a policeman in the face. It's utterly dehumanizing. No wonder these kids feel so divorced from authority."



Mohammed Rezzoug

Position: Respectable.

45-year old caretaker of the municipal gymnasium and soccer field. Not bad. The people who come to use his sports facilities are, in his words, "my kids."

Involvement: He has not partaken in the riot act itself. However, he knows who many of the perpetrators of the deeds, but is choosing not to reveal who they are. To him, he can identify with the youths who he knows since they were young. "They are the children of baggage handlers at Charles de Gaulle International Airport and cleaners at the local schools."

Thoughts/Quotes: "It's not political revolution or a Muslim revolution. There's a lot of rage. Through this burning, they're saying, 'I exist, I'm here.'" Rezzoug seems to understand what the kids who participate in the riots are reacting to. The battle in his eyes is also a battle of cultures. Many of the youths who participate in the riots are ones with dual cultures. "[the youth] go to the mosque and pray. But this is France, so they also drink and party...they also are out to prove to their parents and brothers and uncles they can't take it any more... We don't have the American dream here. We don't even have the French dream here."

Why: Rezzoug is respectable in that he has a pretty respectable job and had not literally partaken in the riots. He knew his limits, and was self-controlled enough to not let his thoughts, which were actually quite in sync with those of the youths, drive his actions. However, he did protect the youths. He is fending for the rough and rough/respectable groups.



Ivory Coast guy

Position: Rough

An anonymous 18-year old native of France. His parents moved from the Ivory Coast. May be considered one of the "French-born children of African and Arab immigrants, the most neglected of the country's citizens."

Involvement: One of the "black-capped youths" who have been rampaging the neighborhoods and cities of France in the 10 days and nights. When he had been interviewed one afternoon about his involvement in the riots, "he'd just awakened and ventured back onto the streets after a night of setting cars ablaze."

Thoughts/Quotes: "We want to change the government. There's no way of getting their attention. The only way to communicate is by burning... We don't plan anything. We just hit whatever we find at the moment." The teenager along with his companions explain how they "dodge the authorities by splitting into small groups, using their cellular telephones and text messaging to alert each other to the location of police and firefighters."

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"Abdel"

Position: Rough/Respectable.

Involvement: It is not quite clear whether Abdel who was described as an "athletic 28-year old" has been rampaging along with the youths for the 10 nights of burning and violence. He seems to advocate their actions because he "echoes the anger of many of the youths" and "resented the French government's efforts to thrust Muslim leaders in to the role of mediators between the police and the violent demonstrators."

Thoughts/Quotes: "I'm a citizen of France, but I don't count... this has nothing to do with religion. But non-Muslims are afraid of people like me with a beard. I look suspicious to them. Discrimination is all around us. We live it every day. It's in the air... I have a double culture. I belong to both. We should stop labeling."

Why: "Abdel" grew up in France; accordingly, he should be a respectable French citizen. However, because of how he looks on the outside, and how he may act as a Muslim as well, he is probably considered a rough/respectable person. His behavior may not be "respectable" but he has good intentions and wants to make other Muslims like him have better lives. His passion is shown in his anger towards the French government who is the symbol of proto-aristocracy.