Melting Pot By Dudley Randall Essay, Research Paper

Explication of Dudley Randall?s ?The Melting Pot? An explication is an

interpretation of a written work. They differ from person to person in that we

all don?t interpret things alike. It seems to me that we learned in high

school about literature and such was a waste of memorizing and testing because

we were taught only ?right? answers about written works. There is no right

way to interpret an author?s work. What they do is leave doors open to make

you think about their work. Even a songwriter does the same thing. Songs can be

even more difficult to interpret than a poem or story because the first that

thing usually attracts us to a song is the music and that is what we concentrate

on mostly. Then a question comes about in my mind that why there has to be any

answers or meaning to a work. Why can?t I just enjoy a poem for the way it

sounds when it is read aloud? Why can?t I just enjoy a song for the way the

words are put together and enjoy the music? It can be fun sometimes to analyze a

work and pick out things like wonderful metaphors. I can see where that comes in

to literature. What I hate is when I read a really great story and I enjoy it

and then I go to class and get hounded for answers and I give them and they?re

not right because I felt different about a story than someone else. Well,

anyway, I?m going to do the best explication I can of Dudley Randall?s

?The Melting Pot? on page 693. Bartorillo 2 ?The Melting Pot? seems to

be about anyone and everyone being accepted as Americans except Blacks. The

second set of four lines is kind of funny because it gives you several names

that sound un-American and when they come to be an American they lose that and

use a more American version of their name. Even when people came through Ellis

Island they usually took a different name or made theirs shorter to be more

American. The next four lines read about a Black man who is unaccepted as an

American even though he?s been there waiting for it. The poem seems to say

that no matter where you?re from if you?re white you can become a white

American no matter what country you?re from. It seems to say that we?re

divided into Whites and Blacks regardless of nationalities. The end of the poem

is where Blacks decide that they?re going to be who they are and be proud of

it and they don?t care about being accepted or not. So that was my own

interpretation of a poem. Someone else might have another idea about it but that

is perfectly okay because our minds work in all different ways.