



## ABHM Book Club Discussion Guide

October 26th, 2023

### ***Beautiful Struggle* by Ta-Nehisi Coates**

#### **How to Use this Guide:**

[America's Black Holocaust Museum](#) staff created this guide to assist in reading and discussion of *The Beautiful Struggle: A Father, Two Sons, and an Unlikely Road to Manhood* by Ta-Nehisi Coates (2008). Please feel free to print a copy and keep it with your book as you lend to friends and others who are interested. Do not expect to get through all of the questions during the upcoming meeting nor in one sitting. Perhaps consider them as conversation starters or an invitation to reflect more deeply about this book.

#### **Suggested Questions for Discussion:**

1. What are a few key features of this coming of age story?
2. What insights throughout the book help us better understand, indeed appreciate, Ta-Nehisi Coates as a public intellectual?
3. Consider how Coates uses Knowledge, Consciousness, Wisdom. Why did he include these words and concepts?
4. What are your thoughts about Paul Coates, Ta-Nehisi Coates's father?
5. What is the cultural significance of Black Classic Press? What is ABHM's direct connection to the press?
6. What are your thoughts about the Coates's family dynamics?
7. How do we understand Coates's use of hip hop throughout the book, particularly with each chapter title and related chapter themes?

8. What other popular culture is on display during Coates's youth?
9. What does this story teach us about "post-Civil Rights Era, urban America?"
10. Why is Howard University referred to as, "The Mecca?"