

Freedom Video Transcript

Kunta Kinte story the theme of nature

00:04

nature is a strong theme that is

00:06

continuously utilized throughout the

00:09

route series nature is a powerful

00:11

resource that is used to make white

00:13

people more powerful and help Africans

00:15

throughout their time of slavery also

00:18

nature is compared with slaves and

00:20

contrast African life to American life

00:22

because of nature many slaves have lost

00:25

sight of where they naturally came from

00:27

and how unnatural American life is

00:34

African community versus American

00:37

community in the root series the African

00:39

communities and lands were very

00:41

different and the African community it

00:43

seemed everyone was family

00:44

one example that would show this is when

00:46

every boy in Hoosick and age tribe was

00:49

sent to become a man to become men

00:51

together has it they were brothers

00:53

another example would be when Kunta was

00:55

sent to catch the chicken and he bumped
00:57
into another tribe instead of being held
00:59
captive
01:00
they laughed it off and made sure he was
01:01
okay and let him free also a prime
01:04
example of how much they care and value
01:07
not only their lives but others as well
01:09
is when they were teaching the boys to
01:12
become men and the instructors taught
01:14
them to surround their enemies from the
01:15
south east and west so they would have
01:18
options ago and no one gets hurt because
01:20
a man dicas warrior man dica warrior's
01:23
purpose is to protect not to kill their
01:26
value their community values reflect on
01:28
their land that's thriving with many
01:30
resources green grass healthy trees and
01:33
wildlife everywhere in the American
01:36
community everyone seems greedy and only
01:38
cares about himself an example would be
01:40
caring for the slaves because the slaves
01:42
all lived in shed with no floors no
01:44
shoes and maybe a bed while the other
01:46

slave owners sat and their big
01:48
comfortable houses plenty of shoes and
01:50
maybe even a few carpets another example
01:53
would be when master Reynolds brother
01:54
began a relationship with his wife and
01:56
later brought out his farm leaving
01:58
master Reynolds with nothing you can see
02:00
how their value reflect on their land
02:03
because there is little to no grass
02:05
the woods are outgrown and dangerous
02:06
almost no wildlife and all of their
02:08
resources are man-made in conclusion you
02:12
can see there is a big difference
02:13
between American and African communities
02:15
in the series of roots some of the
02:18
African family like communities
02:19
continued with Africans American slaves
02:22
because they were still caring for each
02:24
other when they never knew their
02:27
ancestors or freedom while there wasn't
02:29
one white man who tried to help the
02:31
slaves or each other break free from the
02:33
dirt from this terrible activity
02:37

nature as a resource throughout the
02:39
miniseries Roots
02:40
there were many occasions that African
02:43
Americans would use their surroundings
02:44
surroundings being nature has a resource
02:47
to stay alive and to help them get out
02:49
of a situation for example when Kunta
02:51
Kinte was working in the field he found
02:53
a semi sharp rock now I believe any
02:56
other person would have just thought of
02:58
it has a rock and nothing else but Kunta
03:00
Kunta saw it was an opportunity he hid
03:03
the rock in his pants and later
03:05
sharpened it so he could break out of
03:06
the chains on his legs even though this
03:09
process did take him days to complete he
03:11
still managed to break the chains just
03:13
using a rock this is only one of the
03:16
many great examples of African Americans
03:18
using the nature around them as
03:20
resources when Kunta and Kinte was back
03:23
and Kunta Kinte was back in Africa his
03:27
tribe and himself used nature for
03:29

everyday living their houses were made
03:31
from wood out of the trees and straw
03:33
they would wash their clothes and the
03:35
river provided to them they would make
03:37
their clothes out of skins of animals
03:39
and they would take care they took care
03:42
of and one particular scene one of the
03:45
goats was killed and could say
03:46
immediately had to skin the animal after
03:48
they used the rest of the goat food the
03:51
goat for food their tribe also makes
03:53
weapons to protect themselves like
03:55
Spears and slingshots made out of wood
03:57
also poisonous darts lastly the mineka
04:00
tribe makes various types of instruments
04:02
out of the nature around them drums
04:05
tambourine shakers et Cie Kunta Kinte
04:09
was also was going to make his brother a
04:12
drum before he was captured
04:17
slaves as animals in the first episode
04:19
of roots were introduced to Kunta Kinte
04:22
who at the time was a boy living in the
04:24
small village located in Gambia West
04:26

Africa in Gambia animals were often used

04:29

to teach positive life lessons to Kunta

04:32

s Kunta grows into a man his

04:34

responsibility is to look after the

04:36

goats and to make sure they don't wander

04:38

away from the village while talking to

04:41

his friend a tiger gets ahold of the

04:43

she-goat and attacks her Kunta uses his

04:46

slingshot to scare off the tiger however

04:49

it's too late the tiger had already

04:51

killed two goat and now Kunta has the

04:53

skin to go and take it home to his

04:55

father when he gives the skin to his

04:58

father and explains to him what took

05:00

place Koontz's father begins to tell him

05:02

a story about his childhood and how a

05:04

similar incident happened to him as well

05:07

Koontz's father shows him a tiger tooth

05:10

that he wears around his neck as a

05:12

reminder to not let the same incident

05:14

occur again he gives skin to the goat

05:16

skin and tells him to always remember

05:18

that day the tiger tooth and the goats

05:20

can serve as life lessons about not
05:23
letting your guard down after symbolic
05:26
in Africa and were allowed to roam
05:28
freely as nature intended in the second
05:32
episode of roots is where we see nature
05:35
become unbalanced slavery is introduced
05:37
and blacks no longer were treated as
05:39
human beings instead they were captured
05:42
shackle caged and put on display like
05:45
animals in a zoo it was if it was as if
05:49
they were a new breed of undiscovered
05:50
animals nature was in Reverse in America
05:54
when being auctioned off we hear Kunta
05:57
being described as strong as an ox can
06:00
carry things like a mule and why like a
06:02
monkey whites were or were allowed to
06:05
inspect the captured blacks for diseases
06:07
and fleas before bidding for them Kunta
06:11
was even branded like a coward horse he
06:14
no longer had any rights or respect he
06:17
was sold and now belongs to mr. Reynolds
06:19
who like many slave owners just saw him
06:21
as property and not as a human the
06:24

Reynolds farm both house animals and
06:27
slaves however the animals were treated
06:30
better than the
06:30
please the horses had shoes the slaves
06:33
did not the animals were fed and given
06:35
water while the slaves got whatever food
06:38
was left over the animals roamed freely
06:40
without any consequences however this
06:43
was not the case for blacks Kunta wore
06:45
shackles on his feet so he could he
06:47
wouldn't run fiddler had to be given
06:49
permission in order to leave the farm
06:51
fiddler was born into slavery and it was
06:54
natural for him to be treated as an
06:55
animal Kunta however knew what it was
06:58
what it was what being treated as a
07:01
human being was in the third episode of
07:06
roots Kunta runs away to find Fanta and
07:10
his heart is hunted down like an animal
07:12
he was being hunted because he was
07:14
looked upon as a good work animal and he
07:17
was a property of mr. Reynolds he had no
07:19
entitlement to human rights he was a
07:22

slave and could be nothing more he's
07:24
running away amid that mr. Reynolds
07:26
would have lost his investment and he
07:28
had to have Kunta back once Kunta was
07:31
recaptured the slave catchers decided
07:34
that they must teach him a lesson they
07:36
chopped off his toes with no empathy for
07:38
Kunta as a human being they treat him
07:41
like a runaway animal recaptured and
07:42
taught the lesson to never run away
07:44
again as he saved as a slave Kunta had
07:48
to deal with being treated as sometimes
07:51
less than an animal and now he has to
07:53
deal with losing his tools as punishment
07:55
blacks were unjustly but instead they
07:58
were the new breed of work animals the
08:03
manipulation of nature slave owners and
08:05
roots and throughout the time of slavery
08:07
would use utilize landscaping to prevent
08:10
slaves from escaping although many of
08:12
the slaves don't realize it these white
08:14
men have strategic strategically placed
08:16
them in a foreign country where they
08:18

have no chance of escaping due to the
08:20
location of the plantation and the
08:22
natural color of their skin right off
08:24
the bat slaves are targeted because
08:26
their skin color is brown unlike the
08:28
rest of the people living in North
08:29
America that are wait at the beginning
08:31
of roots Kunta and all the other slaves
08:33
are forced onto a boat instantly the
08:35
slaves are estranged chopped away at sea
08:38
and have no chance of escaping unless
08:40
they want to take a chance of drowning
08:41
when Kunta Kinte is brought to the
08:43
plantation we can see how the
08:45
landscaping can easily Ave worried slave
08:48
owner behind the plantation we can see
08:50
high mountains tall rough grass huge
08:52
trees and thick bushes a slave would
08:55
have a difficult time running through
08:57
these treacherous fields for months
08:59
attempting to escape to attempting to
09:02
escape to the North or Africa we noticed
09:06
this when Kunta tries to escape running
09:08

through hard dirt and a thick forest
09:10
with no shoes and very little clothing
09:11
Kunta doesn't make it far before he is
09:14
caught and whipped into obedience on the
09:16
other side of the plantation we see a
09:18
good length of open land
09:20
this helps slave owners to locate slaves
09:22
easily using dogs to track him down and
09:24
attack them and horses for slave hunters
09:27
to travel on and trample them even if
09:29
slaves were able to escape they would
09:31
never be able to return to Africa
09:32
because a barrier between North America
09:35
and their home is miles of ocean that
09:37
they'd never be able to travel caused
09:39
and survive a second way slave owners
09:42
are able to control slaves is by forcing
09:45
them to interact with nature's will
09:47
interact with nature and ways that are
09:49
cruel we first see this when Kunta many
09:51
of the other slaves are forced to work
09:53
on plantations when Kunta first begins
09:56
working on the plantation we see that
09:57

slaves are regulated while picking
09:59
cotton and if they grow tired they were
10:01
yelled at beaten or even wet until they
10:03
continued working not only the slaves
10:06
picked cotton but they also had to carry
10:07
buckets of fruit trees and branches
10:09
Slaves had to cut bushes clean clothes
10:12
using a well of water cut grass using a
10:15
small tool and many other treacherous
10:17
tasks that they didn't have a choice but
10:18
to do slaves had to load heavy cargo and
10:22
even a very old tired slave like fiddler
10:24
had to bend on to his weak knees and
10:26
pick vegetables and fruits we also see
10:28
how slaves are forced to live in
10:30
conditions that are unethical and cruel
10:32
slave tapped asleep and cold barns on a
10:34
bed made of hay or on the cold floor
10:36
with hay on it we also don't see slaves
10:38
eating much food occasionally we see
10:41
pendler giving Kunta Kinte food or
10:43
slaves eating some bland food but we
10:45
never see slaves eating food that they
10:47

have grown and picked themselves save
10:49
owners have placed these slaves in a
10:51
dilemma where they have to pick fresh
10:53
plants and cook food for
10:54
their owners yet they are allowed to
10:56
join any of the food only the left over
10:58
a measly Crump's these forest-
11:01
interactions play a major role in
11:02
manipulating slaves by forcing these
11:07
sales to live in terrible conditions and
11:09
continuously work owners have made it
11:11
easy to make slaves obedient slave
11:13
owners have made the small winners in
11:15
their life huge privileges for slaves
11:17
instead of sleeping at a barn on a on
11:19
the cold floors slaves that work well
11:22
and had no intention of escaping we're
11:24
living in a decent comfortable cabin for
11:26
its age like feta first slaves like
11:29
fiddler and bowed this was an easy
11:30
manipulation since at one point the two
11:33
are sleeping on hate in a barn but have
11:36
been privileged with a better living
11:37

environment we see how broken
11:39
hard-working obedient slaves have worked
11:41
hard to reach the level of comfort that
11:43
they have achieved fiddler even explains
11:45
that he would never attempt to escape
11:46
and lose all that he has earned
11:48
he doesn't do outside work he can drink
11:51
some alcohol eat some warm decent food
11:53
and sleep in a warm cabin
11:54
unlike other disobedient slaves viler
11:57
knows that if he disobeys his disobeys
11:59
his owner he'll be forced to sleep in a
12:01
cold barn like Kunsan work on the fields
12:04
like the other underprivileged slaves
12:05
all his hard work will go to waste this
12:07
is a prime example of an owner
12:09
completely manipulating nature and
12:11
unnatural things to brainwash slaves we
12:13
also see how obedient slaves like Bo can
12:15
live just as good as away person if
12:17
they're blindly loyal to their owners
12:19
after having her husband and children
12:21
taken from her bill has been completely
12:23

broken and lived to help her master and
12:25
has no intention of escaping on the
12:27
other hand we have Kunta Kinte Wiseman
12:30
caught trying to escape for a second
12:31
time living in a decent cabin on a bed
12:34
made of hay with a fireplace now
12:36
although both of these slaves have been
12:38
broken we see how the slave that would
12:40
never try to escape Belle is living so
12:42
much better than the all the other
12:44
slaves but is living in her own house
12:46
with a stove dining room table bedroom
12:48
and many other items are great pledges
12:50
to many other slaves slave owners have
12:53
forced slaves to live in a natural on
12:56
kind of environment and have given them
12:58
unnatural luxury items as a form of
13:00
privilege and as a way of preventing
13:02
slaves from wanting to escape
13:06
after viewing routes we can see how the
13:08
theme of nature strongly affects the
13:10
life of Africans and Americans nature
13:12
can be used as a positive library
13:14

resource to help Africans live in their
13:16
own environment and as a tool to help
13:18
them escape from a trip from their
13:20
trapped
13:21
lives as a slave and contrast nature as
13:23
a tool used by white people to estranged
13:26
Africans and going to gain control of
13:28
them this strong contrast and the use of
13:31
nature shows how white men need slaves
13:33
in nature to gain power and riches while
13:35
Africans use nature as a source of for
13:37
survival