



VIDEOS THAT EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF THE PULITZER PRIZE

1) American Genius, PBS, Joseph Pulitzer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nshAsS_lkU&list=PLPPSV

2) Short History: The Pulitzer Prize

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1LiAR_S6kE&list=PLPPSV





Colson Whitehead

From colsonwhitehead.com

Born	Arch Colson Chipp Whitehead November 6, 1969 (age 53) New York City, U.S.
Occupation	Writer
Education	<u>Harvard University</u>
Genre	Fiction, non-fiction
Notable works	<i><u>The Intuitionist</u></i> (1999), <i><u>John Henry Days</u></i> (2001), <i><u>Zone One</u></i> (2011), <i><u>The Underground Railroad</u></i> (2016), <i><u>The Nickel Boys</u></i> (2019)
Notable awards	<u>National Book Award for Fiction</u> (2016) <u>Pulitzer Prize for Fiction</u> (2017 and 2020)
Spouse	Julie Barer
Children	2

Website

colsonwhitehead.com

WHITEHEAD'S PULITZER WINNING BOOKS

From the Guardian

Amber Jamieson

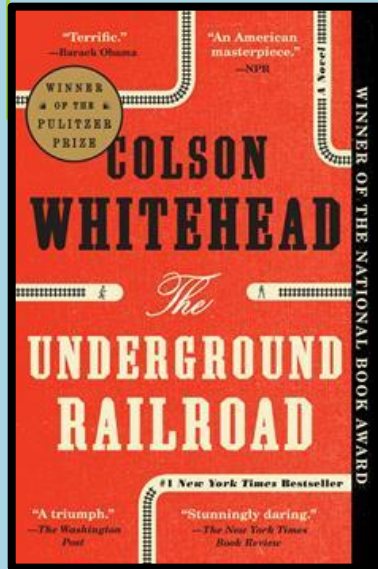
@ambiej

Mon 10 Apr 2017 Literary blockbuster novel The Underground Railroad, which depicts the journey of a young woman escaping from slavery via a fantastical train system, has won the Pulitzer prize for fiction.

Author Colson Whitehead has collected multiple accolades for the bestselling book, including last year's National Book Award.

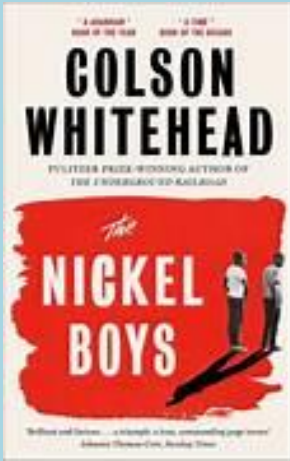
Moonlight director Barry Jenkins is adapting the story into a limited series for Amazon. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt6704972/>

“For a smart melding of realism and allegory that combines the violence of slavery and the drama of escape in a myth that speaks to contemporary America,” read the Pulitzer judges’ note about Whitehead’s win.



[Click here for full review](#)
[The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead review – luminous, furious and wildly inventive](#)

WHITEHEAD'S PULITZER WINNING BOOKS



Click here for an interview with Whitehead

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jul/20/colson-whitehead-reality-is-kids-shot-by-racist-cops>

1. The prize for fiction went to Whitehead for his novel *The Nickel Boys*, which was praised as “sparse and devastating” in its tale of an abusive reform school in Florida. Whitehead previously won the [Pulitzer prize](#) for his 2017 book *The Underground Railroad*.
2. Nikole Hannah-Jones of the *New York Times* for “a sweeping, deeply reported and personal essay” about the enslavement of Africans as part of the paper’s acclaimed 1619 project.
3. There was also a posthumous special citation given to Ida B Wells for her “formidable and courageous reporting” on lynching. There will be \$50,000 donated in support of her mission with honorees to be announced.

Info from The Guardian

WHITEHEAD COMMENTS ON HIS BOOK...

“You can compare this case to what happened in Catholic orphanages or in aboriginal camps,” Whitehead observes. “Any place where you have corrupt, malevolent authority figures who can exert their will on the innocent and powerless, then you’re going to have this: the school as a plantation.” The ease with which these metaphors connect slavery to the present day is, he believes, very telling. “In terms of institutional racism and segregation and white law enforcement attitude towards black people: you can say something from 1850 is true for now.

In *The Nickel Boys*, Elwood’s dreams are partly inspired by Martin Luther King, an LP of whose speeches he receives as a Christmas present. “I wanted Elwood to be motivated by the spirit of the civil rights movement. Hearing King speak, you’re struck by what an impossible figure he is. Maybe we created him out of necessity? How can someone so eloquent and wise and visionary survive as long as he did in this sort of crappy country? Of course they had to kill him. All the civil rights protesters: they knew they would be faced by hoses and baseball bats and crowbars. And yet they got up and marched anyway? It’s impossible – and also true.”

info from The Guardian

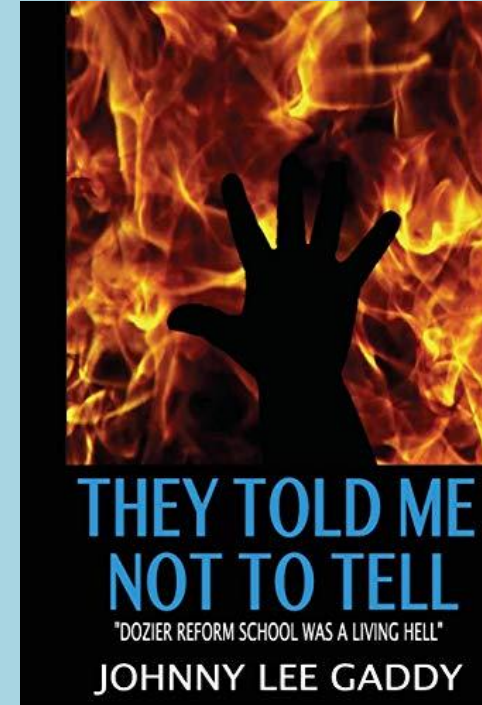
THE DOZIER REFORM SCHOOL



The cemetery of the former Arthur G Dozier School for Boys in Florida. Photograph: Michael Spooneybarger/Reuters



Pastor Johnny Lee Gaddy from the "White House Boys." Photo courtesy TheWeeklyChallenger.com



Johnny Lee Gaddy, a former student of Arthur G. Dozier Reform School in Marianna, Florida., from 1957 to 1961, recalls getting raped, beaten, abused and at the infamous state-run Reform School in the Panhandle town of Marianna, Florida. For the first time in fifty years, he shared his horrible experiences with peonage researcher Antoinette Harrell who helped him expose his childhood experiences at Arthur G. Dozier Reform School to the media.

JOHNNY LEE GADDY

from <http://www.thefamuanonline.com/2021/03/02/survivor-shares-haunting-tales-from-notorious-dozier-school/>

“Dozier was a bad boy school, and I was labeled as a bad boy. But we had boys that were just 6 years old there and I would always wonder what they did that was so bad that they came to Dozier,” he said.

He was sent to the notorious White House for the first time after the men at school claimed he was talking back when they told him to leave a 6-year-old boy in the mud after he fell out from work.

“After he picked the boy up, he drug us both to the White House. He said I want you to lay on that bed, grab that railing, look at that notch on that wall and you better not turn it loose. If you turn this bed loose, I can hit you below your belt and kill you,” he said.

As a kid taking several vicious blows across his body and head from a man with a firm leather strap, he did not manage to hold the bed, which he said was the worst thing that he could have ever done.

“That man went on to hit me all up on my back and head before yelling at me to get back on the bed for being a smart n...r,” he said.

Gaddy shared even more disturbing stories about being molested, how that haunted him for 64 years, and how he was unable to tell his wife until recently.

INTERESTING CLIPS ON YOUTUBE

Underground Railroad: Barnes and Noble interview with Colson...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3K1suniptgw>

Nickel Boys CBS interview with Colson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlc8WA-RIsQ>

Memorial dedicated for the survivors of the Dozier School

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8so5LUDHE0>

Animated version of the Underground Railroad

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAZFGRRUoYM&t=93s>