

Lesson 3

THE ROSEDALE VIDEO

Rosedale is a community in Queens, New York City. It's part of the NY metropolitan area.

The events shown in the video happened in the Summer 1975.

This is not the South, this is not what we are used to call the « Jim Crow South », which makes this video even more shocking.

Black adults relate their memories of what happened, intercut with the actual footage of the time, 45 years ago.

How does their experience resonate decades later ?

THE POWER OF IMAGES

The producer of the documentary at the time, Bill MOYERS, explains how powerful images can be.

Images are not « superficial », they give reality to mere facts.

According to him, television in the 60s gave a reality to the southern violence during protests against black activists marching to get the right to vote, to have equal rights.

Knowing was not enough, people had to « see ». Then they couldn't « escape » this terrible reality of racist oppression.

MEMORY & FEELINGS

The confrontation of these kids with frontal racism was new to them, and the aggression connected them to the experiences of their ancestors, to the experiences of the Civil Rights activists.

A subjective reaction linked them to the bigger picture.

THE FLAG

A symbol that Blacks and Whites share. A symbol of unity.

One of the black women emphasizes the fact that the flag made them come closer to the racist people. They saw the flag and saw it as something positive. But the flag meant : « do not enter ».

There is an ambivalence.