

1: Push Summary & Study Guide

Sapphire is the author of American Dreams, a collection of poetry which was cited by Publishers Weekly as, "One of the strongest debut collections of the nineties." Push, her novel, won the Book-of-the-Month Club Stephen Crane award for First Fiction, the Black Caucus of the American Library Association's First Novelist Award, and, in Great Britain, the Mind Book of the Year Award.

What exactly, do you have the students read? The great works of literature, such as Homer, Emerson yes, Vicky, I am thinking about our conversation the other night? Do you have them read more modern works? How do you teach reading when you also have to teach reference? The best example of this is when my students were reading an essay about wetlands and thought the word crane only referred to the building machine. And no, my students are not stupid, and some are well traveled. When I teach pre-college level reading, I make my students do book reports. They can choose the books. This surprises them, and most of my students will read something by Terry Woods, like The Dutch books a series about a drug dealer. One student was surprised that I let her read them. I just wanted her to read. Literature, she can get in my class. Her last teacher had said she could read whatever she wanted for a book report, until she brought in the Dutch book. Last year, one of my level students asked me to read some of the books that she reads. After all, she said, I was making them read Dracula. For those of you who live in a big city, her books would be those books you can get from a street vendor, sometimes from a bookstore. What has been called Urban African American fiction. These books deal with life in the inner city and are usually, though not always, published by small firms. Out of three books my student loaned me, two could have used more than just spell-check, one was little more than badly written fan fiction; one I understood the appeal of though the writing needed polish, and the last, by Sister Souljah, was good. The flaws were far too many and the plot was eye brow rising, and did explain why my students make some of the mistakes they do. Yet this type of work is important because it reflects something about society. Yet this genre also includes a book such as Precious, a book I will use in my classes. The book is not an easy read for two reasons. One is the subject matter. Precious is abused by both her father and her mother. The second reason is the early spelling. Precious cannot read; therefore, she cannot spell. Unlike two of the books I mentioned above, the errors in Precious are important. They let the reader really know Precious, and come as close to her life as is possible. What is more, the writing improves as Precious changes her life. Sapphire is using language on many different levels. Using language in the strictest terms of communication, and she deserves award after award for this. If the spelling was perfect, the book would lack half of its impact, if not more. Some idiots, and I use this word intentionally, will say a story like this could never happen. I have taught people who came from where Precious comes from. It is shocking what your students will sometimes tell you. Yet, the student is going to school while working two jobs, is a single mother, and has usually come through a violent relationship or two. What Sapphire gives the reader is a true story. An uplifting story with a good dose of sadness, but a story that many teachers will know, will recognize, and will be nodding their heads over. This is far better than those feel good Hollywood teacher movies. This, like Entre les murs The Class, is what life and teaching are. Additionally, the action in the classroom rings true. Even JoAnn who disappears from the class rings true. Any teacher will tell you that there are students like that in the classroom. The sense of cohesion and togetherness that a good class can achieve is realistically drawn. This is not the Hollywood movie where the white suburban teacher comes into an inner city class room fresh from the suburbs. This is not the story where after a tough first two weeks, she magically touches her students who all start behaving well and gets scholarships to Princeton or some other Ivy League school. If this was a Hollywood story, it would end with Precious, now a successful something, returning to her old school and thanking the white principal and white math teacher who arranged for her to join the alternative school. Teachers have bad days. Students have bad days. True, sometimes there will be that shocking light, where everything comes together. But for days, weeks, months before that, there is hard work. Hard repetitive

work, for both the teacher and student. What stands out the most, however, is Precious herself. We see her angry and disruptive. She is, in fact, a victim, though to call her this cheapens her. Instead, Precious gets us on her side by simply existing. By stating in a matter fact tone of voice what is, and yet because of her frankness, we admire and like her. We root for her simply because she earns our respect. Despite the fact that her story is not ours, there are the roots of everyman, everywoman, in her. We all sometimes feel the way Precious sometimes feels. This makes her real.

2: Push by Sapphire | www.enganchecubano.com

Push (or the movie tie-in title Precious), by Sapphire Luckily, this book does not overstay its welcome. If you ignore the final essays at the end, Push is all of pages long.

Precious then reveals that she is pregnant again by her father. Her first child, a girl, was born with Down Syndrome and is in the care of her grandmother. She is in the ninth grade when she begins writing her story, and the date is September 24. As Precious is on her way to math class with Mr. Wincher the only class that she likes, the principal, Mrs. Lichenstein, calls her to her office to discuss her future. Precious is naturally defensive, and the meeting ends with her being suspended for threatening the principal. After her suspension, Precious stands at the sink washing dishes and flashes back to when she had her first child at the age of twelve. The young mother begins to cry for her child and because of the abuse she has endured since she was seven from her parents. After she returns home, Precious faces even more physical and sexual abuse from her mother. A buzz from the intercom system brings Precious back to present day, and she realizes that her principal, Mrs. Precious leaves the apartment early one morning in October to begin her new life at the alternative school. She has endured a lifetime of ridicule from fellow students along with abuse from her parents; she wonders if anything will ever be different. As she enters the classroom, she meets her teacher, Ms. Miz Rain reassures her, and Precious begins to see learning as an escape from her unbearable situation. On the second day of school, Miz Rain gives each girl a journal and tells them to write what they are thinking in the journal. Precious does her best to write letters that sound like the words in her head. After Precious writes a sentence, Miz Rain writes the words correctly below hers and then writes a sentence back to Precious. This begins months of dialogue between teacher and student as Precious begins to write words The entire section is 1, words. A Novel study guide and get instant access to the following:

3: Precious by Sapphire | Book review | Books | The Guardian

Push is the debut novel of American author Sapphire. Thirteen years after its release, it was made into Precious: Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire, a film that won two Academy Awards and was directed by Lee Daniels.

Push is an emotionally powerful, disturbing novel written from the perspective of a young and poor black woman whose life has been defined by sexual, emotional, and physical abuse. Precious Jones lives in Harlem, New York with her mother, who is an overweight shut-in. Her father is a rotating figure in her life. He does not live with the family and only stops by when he wants to have sex with Precious. He starts having sex with Precious when she is three. Her mother is right next to them the first time he has sex with Precious. She does not do anything about it. At age twelve, Precious has her first child. Four years later she has another, which gets her suspended from school. Her dad is the father of both of her children. She wants Precious to stay home, take care of her, and follow her footsteps into a life of despair supported by public aid. She starts going to the school and eventually learns to read. The school is an all girls school that caters to young, troubled women. Precious is one of seven girls who are in the school. None of the girls have basic math, reading, or writing skills. These young women are also extremely affected by horrendous life experiences that include rape, incest, molestation, physical abuse, drug use, and prostitution. As soon as Precious starts at the new school, she changes. She starts speaking out in class and she participates in activities. She also starts to process what has happened to her. As she faces her demons, she tries to understand why she was abused and why her mother did nothing to stop it. Rain, lead Precious to a self-awakening in which she sees herself as something other than ugly, black filth. Precious wants to change her life and in many ways she does. She vows not to remain on public aid like her mother. She also vows to take better care of her son, Abdul. She follows through on this promise, despite seemingly insurmountable challenges. Precious and the other girls find themselves in situations they did nothing to create. Unfortunately, there is not a whole lot they can do to change them. They use each other as a support system try to heal wounds created for them by others. This section contains words approx.

4: NPR Choice page

Push: A Novel Homework Help Questions. How do character representations and the representation of Precious in Push by Sapphire challenge On one hand, the characterization that Sapphire offers.

Share via Email Sapphire: When her debut novel Push came out 15 years ago, readers were enthralled and appalled by protagonist Precious Jones, the New York girl who was abused by her father and failed by the system — only to fight back, educate herself and transcend her background. But in the film adaptation, Precious, promoted heavily by Oprah Winfrey, catapulted it into the mainstream. Are you some kind of black? From there he is moved to a Catholic boarding school where the pupils are groomed by the teachers and eventually go on to assault younger boys. Later Abdul turns to sex work, before a talent for dance offers the possibility of redemption. Because of the explicit scenes and the focus on Abdul as a victim who becomes a perpetrator, Sapphire thinks it is unlikely this book will get the Hollywood film treatment. Usually in stories about children in the ghetto, the kid is black and the teacher is white. But in The Kid, Abdul usurps the role of the bad guy himself. She adopted the name Sapphire for its connotations of vividness and to reclaim the demonised figure of the fiery black woman. She is from California, but has lived in New York for decades. Her background is modest and normal — army parents who broke up. Sapphire lived with her father, but was also in touch with her mother and studied dance, poetry, ancient history and medicine before teaching creative writing for years and publishing highly acclaimed collections of poetry. Yet readers often assume Push was an autobiography. This has something to do with class and race and the way African Americans are perceived in the world of literature. They just assumed it was an autobiography. To listen to someone who basically raised themselves in a series of hostile environments, that was the beginning. It was a jaw dropper. With Push, people were saying: Every anecdote and experience in the book is grounded in fact, she asserts. People know nothing about the life of someone like Precious or Abdul but they know everything about Britney Spears or Paris Hilton. You set up this one tiny stratum of society, the white rich blondes and their neuroses, and then you have this vast universe of African Americans, Latin American kids and women who are invisible and disenfranchised from the culture. But Sapphire assures me: I remember one of my relatives who was incarcerated. The silence makes it worse. A woman of 90 stood up and said:

5: Precious () - IMDb

Push: A Novel by Sapphire and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at www.enganchecubano.com

Plot[edit] Claireece Precious Jones is an obese and illiterate year-old girl who lives in Harlem with her abusive mother Mary. When her school discovers the pregnancy, it is decided that she should attend an alternative school. She meets her teacher, Ms. All of the girls come from troubled backgrounds. They start off by learning the basics of phonics and vocabulary building. Despite their academic deficits, Ms. Rain ignites a passion in her students for literature and writing. She believes that the only way to learn to write is to write every day. Each girl is required to keep a journal. Rain reads their entries and provides feedback and advice. Precious is particularly moved by *The Color Purple*. While in the hospital for the birth of her second child, a boy she names Abdul Jamal Louis Jones, Precious tells a social worker that her first child is living with her grandmother. When Precious returns home with her newborn baby, her mother is enraged and chases her out of the house. Homeless and alone, she first passes a night at the armory, then turns to Ms. Rain who uses all of her resources to get Precious into a halfway house with childcare. Her new environment provides her with the stability and support to continue with school. The accomplishment boosts her spirits. With her attitude changing and her confidence growing, Precious finds herself thinking about having a boyfriend, a real relationship with someone near her age, with someone who attracts her interest. Her only sexual experience thus far has been the rape and sexual abuse by her father and, to a lesser extent, her mother. Testing verifies that Precious is HIV positive, but her children are not. Her classmate Rita encourages Precious to join an incest support group, as well as an HIV positive group. Women of all ages and backgrounds attend the meetings. The book concludes with no specific fate outlined for Precious, with the author leaving her future undetermined. Style[edit] Critics have gone in both directions as far as their opinions of the style in which *Push* is written. Others have stated that while the dialect is problematic, Precious herself is believable because she "speaks in a darting stream of consciousness of her days in an unexpectedly evocative fashion" Mahoney. She spells words phonetically. She uses a "minimal English that defies the conventions of spelling and usage and dispenses all verbal decorum" Mahoney. She also uses an array of profanity and harsh details that reflect the life she has experienced. Last week we went to the museum. A whole whale is hanging from the ceiling. Ms Rain, Rita, Abdul? Precious herself has died following complications from HIV, but was accepted to college before her death.

6: Push: A Novel Summary - www.enganchecubano.com

*Sapphire is the author of *American Dreams*, a collection of poetry that was cited by *Publishers Weekly* as "one of the strongest debut collections of the nineties." *Push*, her novel, won the *Book-of-the-Month Club's Stephen Crane award for First Fiction*, the *Black Caucus of*.*

7: Precious (film) - Wikipedia

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8: Push (novel) - Wikipedia

Push by Sapphire is the story of year-old Claireece Precious Jones, who goes by the nickname Precious. This lesson will focus on the summary and important quotes from the novel Push. Summary.

9: PUSH by Sapphire | Kirkus Reviews

Push, by Sapphire. Plot Summary. Push. is an emotionally powerful, disturbing novel written from the perspective of a young and poor black woman whose life has been defined by sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

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