

FCA 5: Language and Word Choice

A Model Of Transitional Language that allows OR's to be flowing.

Arrows and Highlighted words mark sentence-to-sentence connections.

Transitions Phrases are underlined.

Playwright August Wilson is concerned with the spiritual redemption of African Americans. Over the course of **his** play, *Gem of the Ocean*, the protagonist Citizen Barlow undergoes a spiritual journey in which he finds his true identity. The story of *Gem* tracks **Citizen Barlow** as he undergoes a **spiritual journey**. After killing a man, **Citizen Barlow** comes to see Aunt Ester to get his soul washed. **Aunt Ester** takes Citizen in and ultimately leads him to a mythical place called The City of Bones. Aunt Ester **herself** says to Citizen, “You on an adventure, Mr. Citizen. I bet you didn’t know that. It’s all adventure. You signed up for it and didn’t even know it” (*Gem of the Ocean* Iii, p. 23). This **adventure** is Citizen’s spiritual journey. Indeed, by the end of this spiritual journey, Citizen Barlow finds his true identity. In the City of Bones, **Citizen** encounters the man he killed, admits his act, and finds freedom from his past. In fact, at the end of the play, **Citizen** puts on the clothes of Solly Two Kings and walks out of the house carrying a can of kerosene. The **final** stage directions to the play read, “ELI drinks. The sound of FIRE BELLS are heard. The lights go down on the scene” (*Gem of the Ocean* IIiv, p. 100). This implies that Citizen has used the kerosene to burn down the police station in order to free those who are in bondage there. In putting on Solly’s clothes and completing the task Solly had died fighting to accomplish, it is as though Citizen is taking on a new identity, the identity of a freedom fighter. In conclusion, Wilson’s play walks the audience through the spiritual journey and transformation of Citizen Barlow as he comes to find his true **identity as a freedom fighter**.