

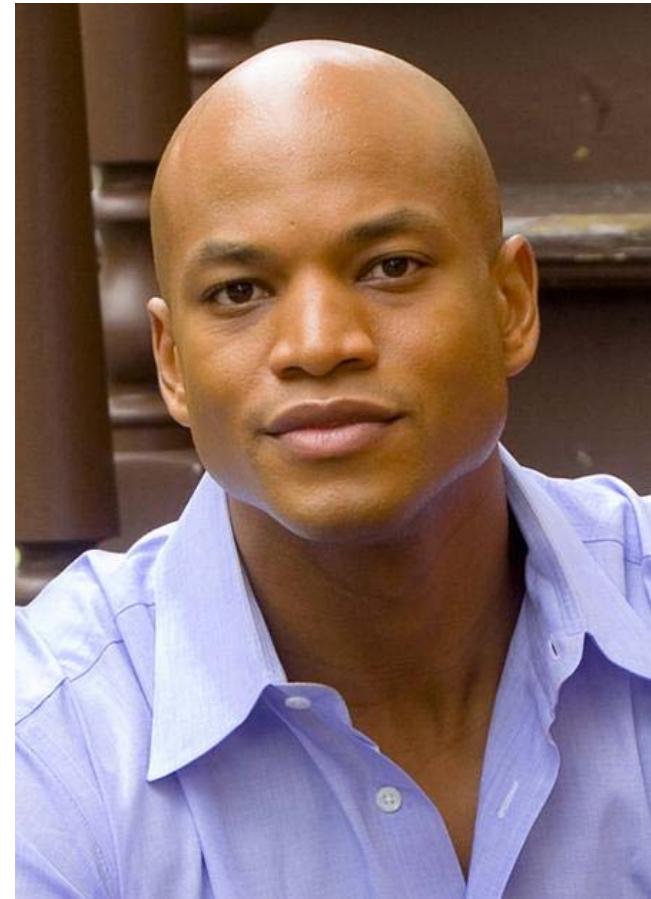
# The Other Wes Moore

One Name, Two Fates



# Meet Wes Moore

- Born in 1979
- Graduated from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore
- Named Rhodes Scholar in 2000
- U.S. Army veteran (Afghanistan)
- Speaker at 2008 Democratic National Convention



Amunankhra House Ltd., via Wikimedia Commons

# Meet Wes Moore

- Born in 1976
- High School drop-out (later received his GED)
- Participated in deadly armed robbery in Baltimore, 2000
- Serving life sentence in Jessup Correctional Institution, Maryland



# Baltimore of “The Wire”



Ian Freimuth,  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/ifmuth/5857580286/>

# Which Wes Moore?

At age of 7, moved to a neighborhood of black professionals, "...a paradise of neat



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/celebdu/106051029/>  
"Leaning Cover" by Mike Goren

At age of 5, moved to a “deteriorating ghetto...”

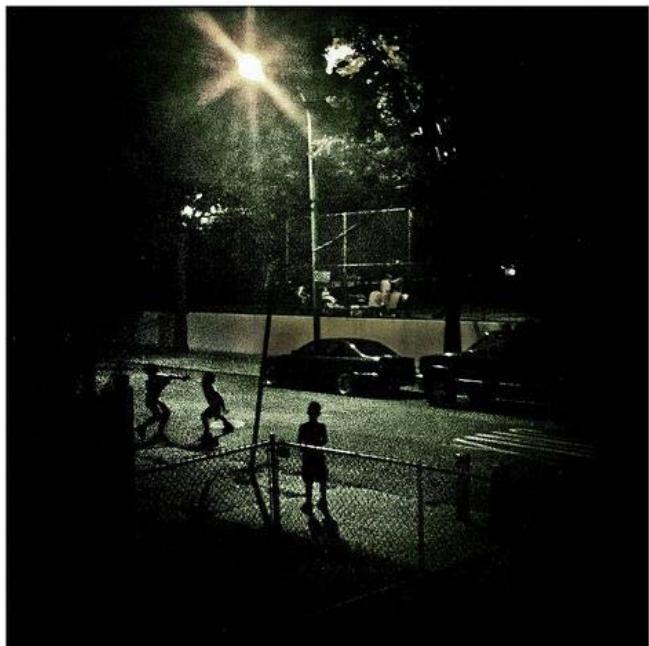


[http://farm5.staticflickr.com/4095/4849756067\\_78891eb00d.jpg](http://farm5.staticflickr.com/4095/4849756067_78891eb00d.jpg)  
"Bronx Fire Escapes" by Paul Lowry

# Which Wes Moore?

At age 8, he got suspended from school for fighting on the playground and giving another student a bloody forehead

At age 8, he got arrested when he went to get a knife after being punched during a pick-up football game



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/balazsgardi/6091985589/>  
by Balasz Gardi

# Second chances...

He tagged a billiards club with graffiti and got thrown in the back of a police car.

Instead of getting arrested, the officer gave him a warning.



Twin, Slik TCW by DJ Philly G  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/downloadthis/3148632295/>

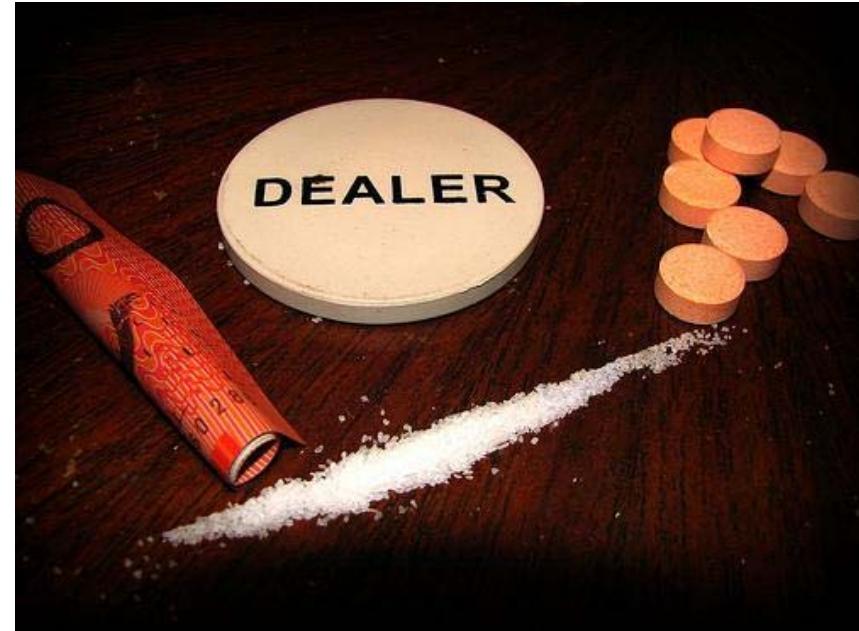
Next week, he tagged again...

# Second chances...

His brother beat him up at  
14 to send him a  
message about staying  
out of the drug game.

His mom flushed his dealing  
stash down the toilet.

After getting angry, his first  
thought was how to get  
that money back...



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rosswebsdale/2671860454/>  
"Dealer2" by Ross Websdale

# Changing the situation...

His family sent him to private military school at age 12.



His squad leader gave him a map to escape.

He ran away...



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/afagen/7492087938/> "There goes Fishburne," by Adam Fagen

# Changing the situation...

He signed up for Job Corps.



He got his GED a month later.

After seven months, he completed vocational carpentry training...



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdol/6883467253/> "Woodland Job Corps, Laurel, MD, 2012," U.S. Department of Labor

# Why, Wes Moore?

“Easy” drug money and  
allure of the gangster  
life?

Lack of good paying work?

Poor choices - babies and  
families to support?

What about personal  
responsibility?

Wes said, “We will do what  
others expect of us...”

Who (or what) does Wes  
Moore blame? Do you  
agree or disagree?



<http://www.flickr.com/photos/v1ctor/6711234961/>  
"Handcuffs, by Victor Casale

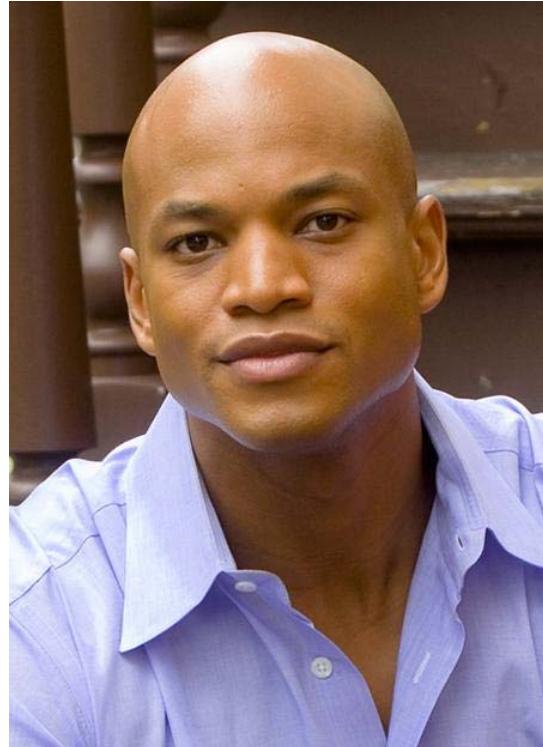
# Why, Wes Moore?

Genetics?

Environment?

Luck?

What about personal responsibility?



Being surrounded by people "...who kept pushing me to see more than what was directly in front of me..."?

Who or what does Wes Moore credit? Do you agree or disagree?

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# Thank You!

This Social Justice Lecture Series Book Discussion  
on Wednesday, October 9, 2013 was sponsored by...



and

