

1.) In the text “dressed in dreams”, the writer speaks about fashion you wear communicates something about who we are and where we come from. According to the text, the fashion and clothing people wear is a powerful presentation of powerful social skin. It further states that the garments we wear are archives of memories, individual and collective, material and emotional that tell “rich textured stories of our lives. Simply put, our clothing makes us feel things/all things. This book also leads by example and gives a message about everyday struggles and celebrates black innovation in fashion. According to chapter one, the author states “we are the most creative folks knowing how to do the most with the very least in all the best ways. She created a movement for the Black community, showing that Black people had talent too and deserve to have the most of what others had as well. Her message was that whether you were rich or poor, you could make the best of what you have. Even if one did not have a lot of money it was still important to be neat and clean and to wear real designer products. She emphasized that you can be “fly” while wearing cheap trendy clothes and thus create a fashion trend. According to the text, the author created a start to a new Black innovation such as having Black models and stars and provided a story that rich or poor, Black or White everyone deserves equal rights. Fashion can be created by anyone from different walks of life. According to the story, the author changed lives of others who can relate to her story. In the 1900’s fashion was different, but everyone enjoyed dressing well and the author allowed every one of every sex, race, ethnicity to feel like they were good enough. It didn’t matter if you were rich or poor, Black or White everyone deserved equal opportunity to express themselves through fashion.

2.) The author states that “all of my style choices and life trials and misadventures can be traced to the dashikis. She goes on to say, “my parents, the ones who taught me how to dress and dream and how navigate the politics therein”. She explains that she is a “descendent of their style and of generational traumas” that have fractured her family. She took what her parents gave her and “flipped it, remixed it, innovating with my own looks, traditions, and dress practices as way to keep her own humanity “She states that it was difficult to be a dashiki daughter and she had to learn to deal with emotional and social torment that came with expressing herself. By telling her story the author spoke about the community and a “strategy for living that is vital to the survival across generation”. The author is trying to share her life experiences with the world and to inspire, educate and influence generations to come. It appears that she is trying to make the differences for other families to better the lives of others reading her story.

3.) According to tanishc.com “Dressed in Dreams “is a story of desire. access, conformity and black innovation that explains things like the importance of “knockout culture, the role of Ghetto Fabulous, full length furs and leather in the 90’s , how black girls make magic out cheap t-shirts, Rhine stones , etc. and also how black parents influence their children to dress nice”. Ford also discusses the pain of seeing black style “appropriated by the mainstream fashion industry and fashion power” especially in America. She spoke about her journey to discover and figure out her personal style, her interest in studying how and why black women “incorporated fashion into activities strategies” in the 1960’s. The author was a role model to many women not only because she made all black women feel like they belong but because she made fashion not just for the wealthy wearing designer clothing but also about the less fortunate wearing cheaper clothing and showing off a great look. Her main goal and accomplishment were to make everyone feel like they are equal, and they belong.

4.) "Each time we stand before our closet to pick out our clothes, we make a series of choices about how we want to appear before the world" Through this statement, Ford demonstrates the ability to understand how fashion shaped the world. She appears to have the unique ability to see how black people used fashion as a form of self-expression is a creative way. She used fashion as a creative tool to tell stories about what it was like to grow up as a black woman in America. She tells her story as a story growing up with her parents and learning to find herself all the while using fashion as a "framing device for larger discussions of identity, race and Feminism". By reading this book, I learned to understand the uniqueness of black expression through fashion. Chapter 1 dedicated as "bamboo earrings" to help explain the problem with "cultural appropriation". People like, Patricia Fields claimed to be the one who made necklaces and bamboo earrings popular and spoke about the frustrations of black women who ordinarily created the style. She explains that garments, shoes, accessories and hair are not just attire but are cultural "armor". They play a role in not only helping us to show others where you came from and where you belong but also shows fashion's power.

Dior by Dior - Book 2

1.) The text entitled Dior by Dior explores the history of fashion through his collection of portraits . beautiful gown from the whole era of Christian Dior Haute Couture. It even included the dresses designed by Dior himself. The portraits were taken by the famous Patrick Demerchelier . He was the photographer whose work was displayed in magazines such as Vogue and Glamour. The author of the text was Christian Dior himself. He was responsible for creating and showing off the new fashion looks after the war and is well regarded as designer of highly dramatic couture dresses.

2.) This text was written during the time of World War II which impacted the fashion industry in many ways. According to the text the garments were uncomfortable. For example the dresses and skirts were too long or too short and shoes were too heavy and made walking difficult. It was very difficult to find appropriate materials and fabrics and this created problems for the fashion industry. The standards of quality were not as they are today. The text also discusses dresses. At that time there was very little variety in fashion. Therefore to make dresses different and unique the designers added embroidery, lace, braids and other frills. The designers and seamstresses worked hard to make every item special and unique. The dresses were normally not revealed to the public until after the opening fashion show.

3.) As per the text, Christian Dior worked as a designer for Haute Dior couture for approximately 10 yrs. He worked hard but did not intellectualize the designs he worked on. Therefore he created the most iconic designs of the century without much support or media involvement . He did not worry about publicity and relied on a few close followers and friends to spread word about his collection in Paris. He sometimes was convinced to show his collection of designs to friends before they were publicly displayed . Dior was and is considered to be one of the greatest designers for the unique garments and accessories he designed.

4.) According to the text a fortune teller named Madame Delaham made a prediction and encouraged Dior to create what is now known as House of Dior. Despite what was going on in the world and the conditions under which he had to work under , She urged him to take a chance on success. Dior was motivated by the fortune teller's advice and became confident he would succeed in his career. According to the text, he hired Madeline Vionet to oversee the technical side of his business. He and his trusted team created many beautiful and unique designs that continue to impress the public today.