

Alternative Assignment: Lynching Photography

On the Library Home Page, under Research Projects for English, you will find "To Kill a Mockingbird (Farina). Click on that and you will find material to use for an alternate assignment to viewing the lynching photos.

First, read "Strange Fruit," a poem that was made famous when it was set to music and sung by Billie Holliday—in fact, you can search and listen to her performance of it if you'd like. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the "strange fruit" of the Southern trees?
2. Define these words:
Pastoral
Gallant
3. Why are these words used in the poem? What effect do they have on our reading of the poem?
4. What words/images in the poem **contrast** with the words "pastoral" and "gallant" and the image of the "scent of magnolia sweet and fresh"?
5. Why does the poem refer the fruit as a "crop"? Remember that a crop gets harvested.

Read some of "Lynch Law in Georgia" by Ida B. Wells-Barnett. (found on the same library project page). This pamphlet was published and circulated by African Americans in Chicago.

OR

Read over the Introduction to *Lynching in America* (also found on the library project page).

Select from either "key" lines/phrases/passages that you would like to share with the class.