

**Assignment #6**

READ our selections that touch on issues of race and gender. They are:

- Gerald Early's "Where Have We Gone, Mr. Robinson?" Early is an academic who writes on issues of popular culture and race. This brief chapter comes from his 2011 book, *A Level Playing Field: African-American Athletes and the Republic of Sports*. The book, and our excerpt, reflect on the cultural meanings of baseball among African Americans.
- Ariel Levy's "A Ring of One's Own" (a play on the title of a famous talk by Virginia Woolf), which profiles the female boxer Claressa Shields, who at age 17 was training for the 2012 Olympics. Levy is a staff writer for *The New Yorker*, and often writes about gender issues.

**FOR CLASS DISCUSSION:**

- Early: The author raises the question of representation in a given sport—in this case, the number of American blacks playing pro baseball. What do you make of this concern—i.e., does it matter? If so, how?
- Levy: Besides being a profile of a fascinating young woman in a colorful environment unfamiliar to many of us today, this article raises questions for me about women's place in the sport of boxing. What do you think? Does reading about a female boxer make you uncomfortable? Why or why not? What do you think of boxing as a sport?

ALSO: E-mail me your 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> choices for your Book Talk.

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21W.015 Writing and Rhetoric: Writing about Sports  
Fall 2013

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