

Extra Credit

While observing the different types of quilts in the library, I wasn't informed about these quilts until I got the opportunity of receiving extra credit. These quilts were put up for Black History month. All these quilts are different and they each have a unique story to all of them. Quilts are important because each component of a quilt expresses an important meaning to the individual creating the quilt. While examining the different types of quilts, as one would like going to a museum and observing the different types of paintings, one would spend several hours observing the piece of art. Instead of spending time at the library, I took a picture of the quilts to observe them. The most significant quilt that I was interested in was the Martin Luther King/ Malcolm X quilt. Both of these men were powerful leaders that impacted the civil rights movement in our country. As I analyzed the quilt that had both Martin and Malcolm's faces, the first thing that I noticed were the symbols on their necktie and bowtie. Malcolm's bowtie symbolizes the crescent and star of the Muslim religion he practiced. On the other hand, Martin's necktie represents the cross; he carried his faith within him while enduring the civil rights movement. Secondly, the quilt was divided to represent the U.S., the other half represents the Islamic culture. The doves in the background of Martin represents freedom, in his "I Have a Dream" speech in which he spoke about the issue of many of his brothers and sisters of color that experienced the detrimental trial of racism. The color purple, which Malcolm is wearing, represents wisdom, dignity, devotion, peace, pride, and independence. Malcolm represents all these characteristics and he was a good man; his legacy will continue on throughout generations. The color blue, which Martin was wearing, represents loyalty, strength, wisdom, and trust. In his works, many of people trusted Martin and he

gained followers who believed what he was preaching.

With the recognition of Black History month, the second quilt that I found the most significant was the Eric Garner quilt. In 2014, Eric Garner was arrested by the police in New York City. As he was being placed onto the ground, he was telling the officers that he wasn't able to breathe. The officers didn't acknowledge the situation, and soon enough, Garner was unconscious. The quilt that represents Garner has police portrayed in the corners of the quilt. I think this symbolizes the authority surrounding him at that fateful moment. Secondly, I noticed was that there were handcuffs surrounding the quilt. This symbolizes Garner's arrest and the power the authority has on an individual. The flag of Liberia is shown on the left side of the quilt; this flag is in close resemblance to the American flag. The flag of Liberia represents the freed American and ex Caribbean slaves' offspring and bloodlines the origins of the country. When Garner was arrested he was placed in a chokehold by a officer, but the officer continued to deny that he had nothing to do with his death. The examiner's office report stated "Cause of Death: Compression of the neck (choke hold), compression of chest and prone positioning during physical resistant by police" and "Contributing Conditions: asthma, obesity, cardiovascular disease." In addition, the filming of the incident brought police brutality into wider public awareness. In conclusion, I'm glad that I got the chance to examine the quilts that are located in the library. Learning more about the quilts that represent black history month can educate an individual.

