



November 2020

Lovecraft Country

TV Show | 10 Episodes | ~1 hour each

[Watch on HBO & HBO Max](#) - If you do not have access to an HBO subscription, HBO Max offers a 7-day free trial

Fair Warning: This show contains graphic imagery, racial and sexual violence, and gory material that might be disturbing to some viewers. Viewer discretion advised.

What it's about:

Lovecraft Country blends elements of horror, sci-fi, and historical drama to craft a Jim Crow-era period piece, based in Chicago, and highlights the consequences of “existing while Black.” In the show, the characters confront their fears of magic and other supernatural forces by learning to master them and to take back what’s rightfully theirs.

Why it's important:

Through monsters, magic, violence, and historical accuracy, viewers must face the ways we have and have not grown since the late 1950’s. One of Lovecraft Country’s most powerful themes is that racism is more terrifying than the existence of monsters. The show illustrates the horrifying, generational impact that unchecked racism and white supremacy can have on people of color, and challenges viewers to confront the monsters of our past, in hopes of creating a fairer future.

Reflect and discuss:

Take a socially distant walk around your city or town and notice the names. What can you find out about the origins of the names of the streets, parks, bridges, districts, etc.?

In the show, the main character wrestles with the reality that she’s tired of being “interrupted.” She connects this feeling beyond when she’s speaking, to the entirety of her lived experience: work where she wants to work, live where she wants to live,



and have a realistic shot at accomplishing her dreams. How does it make you feel when you are interrupted and how do you react when it happens?

The show ends with a letter, “Teach my son new ways of living instead of repeating what we’ve been through.” If you could imagine a new way of living for your family or your country, what things would you include? Can you live any of that out in your context today?

Want to learn more? Check out the following resources:

- [Langston League | The Unofficial Lovecraft Country Syllabus](#)
- [NPR | Code Switch](#)
- [The Crux | A Guide to Lovecraft Country's Historical References and Cameos](#)