Brent Murphree

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MWF 12:10p

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1. I think Gates opened the essay with those two quotes because for one, he was trying to set the mood. I think it helped by making white people feel uncomfortable and black people feel angry and vengeful. Yes, there is still much racism in the world, but I also think Gates was trying to set the tone and associate the essay to a certain time period; one where segregation still existed.
2. I believe Gates recalled this story from his memory because he was trying to reemphasize that racism existed several hundred years ago, and still is practiced to this very day. While it is not as prominent as it was in the time period of the story (1950s), his emphasis suggests that he is infuriated still by racism.

By far, his main point is telling how much names can hurt. He lists several pejorative names for the black man, all just as equally hurtful as the next. His emphasis on the name “George” shows that no matter what the name is, he loses all respect for any man who has the audacity to think that they are better than him just because their skin is a different color than his own.