Denise Giardina Table of Contents

Use in combination with the program script

This table of contents works best as a guide for people who have listened to the CD and want to find favorite parts. Teachers may want to print it out and make notes on it as they listen to the program, choosing tracks for classroom use.

<u>Classroom content:</u> The historical and theological themes of Giardina's work will make this CD useful in many settings. Teachers of all levels will find excellent material here. First-rate segments about writing. Her childhood memories and stories told from a child's point of view will work well with elementary students.

Strong history-to-fiction content and concern for justic as a theme. Starred tracks: teacher discretion.

Key: Italics: Giardina reading her work

W: Advice or conversation about writing

F/H: Fictionalizing history: turning actual events into fiction or poetry

CM: Childhood memories

AM: Adult memories **CH:** Cultural heritage

IWV: Identity as a West Virginian

CNW: Connection with the natural world: attachment to land and animals

CCF: Connection with community and/or family

J: Justice as a theme

* material appropriate for older students only

- 1. (1:36) Introduction to Denise. Overview, exerpts from reviews, comments about process. W
- 2. (2:00) "Writing, for me, is like going underwater..." W
- 3. (3:58) War on Poverty scene from The Unquiet Earth. The shoe giveaway in the grade school. **CH, F/H, IWV, J**
- 4. (:51) Comments about the childhood impact on her of such scenes: "One of my memories burned into my childhood is seeing all those TV shows about Appalachia..." CH, CM, IWV, F/H
- 5. (1:49) From The Unquiet Earth: scene from coal camp, Number 13. Young girl who wants to be a writer. CH, IWV, F/H, CCF
- 6. (:40) "I really did think it'd be run to be a writer, but I never dreamed that I could ..." Personal parallel to previous scene. CM, W, IWV
- 7. (2:02) Personal history: "I grew up in a coal camp called Black Wolf..." Details from family daily life, plus the impact of the mining company's decision to close down the mine, thereby killing the town. CM, CH, IWV, CCF
- 8. (:49) "Even as a child, Denise was bothered by injustice ..." Company gave her family an extra room > her reaction. CM, J, CH, CCF
- 9. (2:40) Family history: "My father's father, Sam Giardina..." Description of Italian grandfather, a coal miner; Grandmother who spoke little English, and father, who went to bookkeeping school. CM, CH, F/H, W, CCF

- 10. (2:06) "Earliest thing I recall from when I was a boy is Daddy coming in from the mines and taking his bath..." R, CH, F/H, J, CCF
- 11. (:46) Description of book, Storming Heaven. Introduces reading that follows. W
- 12. (1:41) Young girl wading in the river, imagining her dead uncle, a logger, as a spirit. "Uncle Alec had been dead a long time, killed in the War between the States..." beautiful description of environment ... F/H, CH, CNW, CCF
- 13. (3:41) "Denise's family moved away from McDowell County when she was 13 ..." > Young Denise discovers Henry V through books and the Kanawha County library system. CH, CCF, IMW, CM, W
- 14. (1:01) From Henry V's deathbed scene in Good King Harry F/H
- 15. (3:11) Discussion of the themes and events of Good King Harry as they relate to contemporary events. W, F/H, CH, J
- * 16. (3:57) Sexual content. Rondall and Carrie go to bed in Storming Heaven. Then he tells her not to take it seriously. Post-comments about writing. W
- 17. (:34) Coal camp description: "When Albion first set eyes on the tall, narrow tipple at Felco ... "CH, F/H, CCF
- 18. (2:27) "The first day Albion went in the mine, Carrie fussed all day ..." Description of his first day, followed by discussion of his role as union organizer / minister. CH, F/H, J
- 19. (3:05) Discussion of Denise as a theological writer: her themes, her decision to go to seminary, the fact that all her main characters are following some kind of call, often from God. W, J, CH, AM
- 20. (1:26) Continuation of discussion of theological themes and the impact of seminary on her writing: existential questions of good and evil. W, J
- 21. (3:06) Theological themes continued. Comparison of characters and themes from book to book: "The idea of their soul's damnation versus doing good on this earth."

Reading from Saints and Villains: Bonnhoeffer discussing the risk to his soul of joining the plot to kill Hitler, followed by discussion of the fact that "often, the choices we have to make are ... between bad and bad." W, J

- * 22. (4:06) Reading from Storming Heaven: Carrie's brother, Miles, manages a coal camp where she works as the nurse. She tries to convince Miles to tell the Boston owners they have to build a new sanitary system to end the typhoid epidemic in the camp. Discussion prior to and following the reading of the complexity to choices and the compromises people make. J, W, CH, CCF
- * 23. (:33) "The existentialists used to talk about committed literature, literature that has a message to the larger society..." Denise's comments. W, J
- 24. (1:01) Discussion of the mountains as a character. Her feelings about mountaintop removal. W, CH, CNW, IWV
- 25. (1:09) Reading from The Unquiet Earth: Dillon Freeman, a coal miner, is angry about a huge strip mine on the mountain above his house. F/H, CNW, CH
- * 26. (3:19) A coal company waste dam breaks and flash floods an entire holler. Based on the Buffalo Creek disaster. Discussion afterward of writing extremely intense scenes. W, F/H, CH, J

- 27. (:36) Discussion of Fallam's Secret, Denise's fifth novel, a time travel adventure. W
- 28. (1:32) Discussion of her run for governor. AM
- 29. (1:18) "I do feel called to write the books I write ..." An articulate, moving statement of her sense of herself as a writer and activist. W, J
- 30. (2:10) "Too bad we can't get all these people in one room and let them talk to each other: Carrie and Bonnhoeffer and Harry ..." An imaginative idea that could be applied to other writers. W

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