Richard Currey 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> Currey has recycled his Vietnam experience into powerful fiction and has also recycled scenes from West Virginia history - railroading, coal mining, music - into fast-paced fictional scenes. Currey is also a musician. His writing is rhythmic and lyrical. First-rate segments about writing.

* Most tracks are appropriate for older students only. Elementary-appropriate passages are starred.

Key: Italics: Currey reading his 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

* appropriate for elementary

- "At night in the jungle..." W, AM
- 2. (:55) "You write about ordinary people, and you give them a lot of dignity:" = one of the main characteristics of his writing. W
- 3. (:32) Exerpts from reviews and comments before the following reading: W
- 4. (6:18) Complete story: "Tyler's Ballad," from the Wars of Heaven, about a railroad engineer who marries a youg woman. F/H, CH, CCF
- * 5. (2:13) Currey talks about his writing: the relationship of life to art, of his music to his writing ("I listen for the chords. I listen for the way the themes move..."). W
- 6. (2:00) From Currey's short story, "The Wars of Heaven," about a man who holds up a store, with preliminary comment: a story that streamed "out on the page like jazz." W
- * 7. (1:48) Currey's family history: mother and father, father's grandfather. **CM, IWV, CH, CNW. CCF**
- 8. (:34) "You were born in West Virginia..." His comments about his attachment to West Virginia IWV, CCF
- 9. (4:17) Reading from "Believer's Flood," in The Wars of Heaven, about a coal miner in the West Virginia mine wars. he beats up a company guard. F/H, CH, CCF
- 10. (1:37) Part 2 of the reading. The miner takes his family out of town to avoid the inevitble retaliation from the mine guards. F/H, CH, CCF

- 11. (4:47) Part 3. The coal miner returns to face the mine guards, who come to his house to kill him. F/H, CH, CCF
- 12. (27:12) A hundred-year-old woman tells Currey he got the mine wars story right. W, F/H, CH
- * 13. (2:21) "Most people who can tell stories heard stories when they were kids. Who told stories in your life?" His response. He tells about his grandfather, who encouraged his writing. CM, W, CCF
- 14. (1:00) Introduction to Currey's Vietnam stories from <u>Fatal Light</u> and <u>Crossing Over</u>. Review exerpts, etc. W
- 15. (:33) "Maldonado in the ditch bottom ..." F/H
- 16. (:53) Medic opens a soldier's airway with a ballpoint pen." F/H
- 17. (1:43) "How did you writing things like this? How could you stand to remember?" His response. W, F/H, CH
- 18. (3.51) "How autobiographical is your writing about the war?" His response, followed by reading from Fatal Light: "Hellicopter approaching ground under fire ..." Young medic rescuing people under fire. Followed by comments about "the juxtaposition of the beautiful and the horrible." F/H, CH
- 19. (2:44) "I'm dead, and I know it. Only a matter of time." A medic's friend dies after an ambush. Followed by Currey's reaction. W, F/H, CH
- 20. (1:10) "Many people want to know if writing is cathartic..." His opinion. W
- 21. (2:59) In a troop hospital, the injured medic recounts a stunning story about a medal ceremony for a soldier who has lost his mind, juxtaposed with an announcement of a Bob Hope visit. F/H, CH
- * 22. (:49) "I dream about two Vietnamese monks ..." Poetic description of dream. W, F/H
- 23. (1:55) Currey's character goes home to his grandfather's house, and Currey's memory of his own return to West Virginia. AM, F/H, CH, CCF
- 24. (1:50) Intoduction to Lost Highway, Currey's novel about a Bill Monroe-type traveling musician, based on West Virginia. W, F/H, CH
- * 25. (2:37) Reading from Lost Highway. A boy who has fallen in love with the banjo plays in the family barn as a rainstorm begins. Lyrical, musical writing. W, CH, CNW
- 26. (:36) Lost Highway reading. A single scene that conveys the cost to the musician's family life of being on the road: husband and wife talk on the phone. W, CH, CCF
- 27. (:44) Intro to the reading that follows. "We don't know where the stories come from ..." W
- 28. (2:06) The musician, now world-famous, reflects back in poetic, descriptive language, on the source of his songs. CWN, CH, F/H
- * 29. (3:27) Ending story, a true one: Richard Currey visits his grandfather's empty house and finds bits of his past. AM, W, CCF
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