

The Symbolism of the Battle Royal in *Invisible Man*

Use the sentences below as the basis for an essay that explains the symbolism of the battle royal in *Invisible Man*. Include evidence from the text to support these claims. Feel free to improve upon the ideas presented below. These sentences are just a foundation.

1. The battle royal is in Chapter 1 of *Invisible Man*.
2. Ralph Ellison wrote *Invisible Man*.
3. The battle royal seems to be more than a literal description.
4. The description is of ten black boys.
5. The black boys are slugging it out with each other.
6. The slugging occurs in front of the town's most influential white citizens.
7. The battle royal is presented in a way.
8. The way makes the battle royal symbolic.
9. The battle royal is symbolic of the plight of the black person in white society.
10. Here is an early sign that the battle royal symbolizes blacks being oppressed by white.
11. It is the white blindfold.
12. The white blindfold is placed over the eyes of each black fighter.
13. This detail suggests this.
14. The blacks have blinded themselves to this reality.
15. The reality is that whites are their real enemy.
16. The blacks have done this in exchange for a little money.
17. The blacks are unable to see the truth.
18. The blacks fight each other.
19. The blacks do not fight their true oppressor.
20. Here is the result of blacks fighting each other in the boxing ring.
21. Here is the result of blacks fighting each other in society at large.
22. The result is what the narrator describes as "complete anarchy."
23. The battle royal suggests this.
24. Blacks will be victimized so long as this happens.
25. Blacks continue to fight each other.
26. Blacks do not fight whites.
27. If so, the struggle between the narrator and Tatlock shows this.
28. The path of humility is the path of defeat.
29. The narrator is close to knocking out Tatlock.
30. Tatlock is larger than the narrator.
31. The narrator hears a white voice.
32. The white voice calls out, "I got my money on the big boy."
33. The narrator asks himself his.
34. Might this be a moment for humility?
35. Might this be a moment for nonresistance?
36. The narrator is considering nonresistance.
37. Just at this point he is hit by a vicious blow.
38. Just at this point he is knocked unconscious.
39. Ellison has a symbolic point.
40. The symbolic point seems clear.
41. Whites will take advantage of blacks.
42. These blacks practice humility.
43. These blacks practice nonresistance.
44. Whites will have these blacks beaten into full submission.
45. This is true of the battle royal as a whole.
46. It is a symbolic statement.
47. The statement is that blacks will be cruelly victimized.
48. The statement is that blacks will be painfully victimized.
49. The victimization will go on as long as blacks allow themselves to be blinded by white racists.
50. The victimization will go on as long as blacks allow themselves to be controlled by white racists.