

Reading Diagnostic

*The paragraphs below are excerpted from the 2019 book Superior: The Return of Race Science by Angela Saini. **Read** the paragraphs below as best you can. Then, **answer** the questions in the Reading Diagnostic Google Form on Google Classroom.*

Objects here at the British Museum are trapped inside glass cabinets, under tight security as though any of them might dare to leap back thousands of miles to where they were created. Why are the bones of African mummies here, and not where they were buried, in the magnificent tombs that were created for them, where they were supposed to live out eternity? Because this is how power works. It takes, it claims, and it keeps. It makes you believe that this is where the objects belong. It's designed to put you in your place.

The global power balance, as it played out in the eighteenth century, meant that treasures from all over the world could and would only end up in a museum like this one, because Britain was one of the strongest nations at the time. It, along with other European powers, were the latest colonizers, the most recent winners. So they gave themselves the right to take things. They gave themselves the right to document history their way, to define the scientific facts about humankind. Just as the United States would later, when it became the global superpower. Throughout, white thinkers told us their cultures were better, that they were the proprietors of thought and reason, and they married this with the notion that they belonged to superior races. These became our realities. The truth is something else.