

↗ HANDOUT 10 ↗

Choose Your Words Wisely

*in life
one is always
balancing*

*like we juggle our mothers
against our fathers*

*or one teacher
against another
(only to balance our grade average)*

*3 grains of salt
to one ounce truth
- Nikki Giovanni (from "Balancing")*

*I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,--
When he beats his bars and he would be free;
It is not a carol of joy or glee,
But a prayer
that he sends from his heart's deep core,
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings--
I know why the caged bird sings!
- Paul Lawrence Dunbar (from "Sympathy")*

*I would liken you
To a night without stars
Were it not for your eyes.
I would liken you
To a sleep without dreams
Were it not for your songs.
- Langston Hughes, "Quiet Girl"*

*I am nothing but the empty net which has gone on ahead
of human eyes, dead in those darknesses,
of fingers accustomed to the triangle, longitudes
on the timid globe of an orange.
- Pablo Neruda (from "Enigmas")*

*You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.*
- Mary Oliver (from “Wild Geese”)

*Do I contradict myself?
Very well then I contradict myself,
(I am large, I contain multitudes.)*
- Walt Whitman (from “Song of Myself”)

*And now, each night I count the stars.
And each night I get the same number.
And when they will not come to be counted,
I count the holes they leave.*

Nobody sings anymore.

- Amiri Baraka (from “Preface to a Twenty Volume Suicide Note”)

↗ HANDBOUT 11 ↗

Aesop's Fables

The Hare and the Tortoise

Hare continuously ridiculed the short feet and slow pace of Tortoise. One day, Tortoise replied, laughing: "Though you be swift as the wind, I will beat you in a race." Hare, believing Tortoise's words to be impossible, agreed to a race. Both Hare and Tortoise agreed that Fox should choose the course and the finish line.

On the day appointed for the race, Hare and Tortoise started together. Hare dashed out in front of Tortoise. After gaining a substantial lead, Hare lay out under a tree. She was comfortable with the distances she had put between herself and her opponent. Tortoise never for a moment stopped, but went on with a slow but steady pace straight to the end of the course. Hare, lying down on the sideline, fell asleep. Later, Hare woke and remembered the race. Moving as fast as she could, she dashed past trees and leaped over streams. As she approached the designated end point, she saw the Tortoise had already crossed the finish line.

Moral: Slow but steady wins the race.

(Adapted from <http://aesopfables.com/cgi/aesop1.cgi?2&TheHareandtheTortoise>)

The Ant and the Grasshopper

During warm summer days, Grasshopper sat in the shade singing ballads and chewing straw. Ant spent her summer collecting and storing food for the upcoming winter months. When winter came, Ant dried grain and ate from her store of food. Grasshopper's stomach rumbled as he shivered in the cold. Perishing with famine, Grasshopper visited Ant and begged Ant for food.

Ant said to Grasshopper, "You had ample time during the days of sun. Why did you not store up food during the summer?"

Grasshopper replied, "I preferred leisure over work. I passed the days singing and entertaining friends."

Ant turned up her pincers: "If you were foolish enough to sing all the summer, you must dance without supper in the winter."

Moral: It is best to prepare for tomorrow today.

(Adapted from <http://aesopfables.com/cgi/aesop1.cgi?1&TheAntsandtheGrasshopper>)

The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Wolf was hungry. Unfortunately, because the shepherd and his dogs were vigilant, Wolf found great difficulty in getting at the sheep. With a watering mouth, growling stomach, and cunning mind, Wolf plotted. One day, Wolf found the skin of a sheep that had been thrown aside. He put on the skin, pulling it over his own pelt, and then strolled down among the sheep. One of the lamb, whose parent's skin Wolf was wearing, began to follow the wolf in the sheep's clothing. Wolf led the lamb a little apart and made a meal of her.

Moral: Appearances are deceptive.

(Adapted from <http://aesopfables.com/cgi/aesop1.cgi?4&TheWolfinSheepsClothing2>)

↗HANDOUT 12-A↗

That's Debatable II

Was Kendry justified in using the word “Nigga”?

As **Group A**, you will take the pro side of this argument. This means you are to defend the following statement: Kendry Clare **was justified** in using the word “Nigga.” To mount a persuasive case, you should do the following:

1. Elect a speaker for your group. This person will present a 2-3 minute opening statement outlining the group’s main points.
2. Make a list of points that support your argument. Draw on text-based evidence from Chapters 1-5 of *The Pencil Test*, as well as examples for history and current events.
3. Make a list of arguments that the opposing group may present; next, develop counterpoints to these arguments.
4. During the debate, note points made by the opposing group. These will help you to develop impromptu counter argument.

↗HANDOUT 12-B↗

That's Debatable II

Was Kendry justified in using the word “Nigga”?

As **Group B**, you will take the con side of this argument. This means you are to defend the following statement: Kendry Clare **was not justified** in using the word “Nigga.” To mount a persuasive case, you should do the following:

1. Elect a speaker for your group. This person will present a 2-3 minute opening statement outlining the group’s main points.
2. Make a list of points that support your argument. Draw on text-based evidence from Chapters 1-5 of *The Pencil Test*, as well as examples for history and current events.
3. Make a list of arguments that the opposing group may present; next, develop counterpoints to these arguments.
4. During the debate, note points made by the opposing group. These will help you to develop your impromptu counter argument.

✓ QUICK QUIZ ONE ✓

Chapters 1-5

1. The following was hung over the mantel piece:
 - a. A calendar with the caption, "You're a Winner!"
 - b. A picture of Kendry's father
 - c. A picture of Doris and Dr. Higgman
 - d. A placard from Doris's former job
2. Kendry told Dr. Higgman which of the following things:
 - a. That her mother was addicted to drugs
 - b. That she loved all of her friends at Crestman
 - c. That she planned to run away from home
 - d. None of this above
3. Which of the following people were not on the train:
 - a. The black girls
 - b. A woman with a flaring hat
 - c. A teacher from Kendry's former school
 - d. A group of business people
4. Doris told Kendry the following:
 - a. That she has managed to sell five houses
 - b. That Kendry's father will be returning
 - c. That there is no Santa Clause
 - d. None of the above
5. True or False: The house in which Kendry and Doris moved was tiny.
6. True or False: Kendry was least nervous about what she would wear to school
7. What did Kendry notice about PLD?
 - a. That the school had more resources than Crestman Prep School
 - b. That the school had less resources than Crestman Prep School
 - c. That the cars in the parking lot were covered with pollen
 - d. That the teachers never spoke above a whisper
8. What happened after Tandy told Kendry that Kendry was in her seat?
 - a. Kendry said, "Too bad," and rolled her eyes
 - b. Kendry got up and toppled her pencil case in the process
 - c. Tandy forcibly removed Kendry from the seat
 - d. Tandy called Principal Bellews to settle the dispute
9. Tandy thought that Kendry's father was which of the following:
 - a. A lawyer
 - b. A black man
 - c. A teacher at PLD
 - d. Insensitive to poor people
10. What lie does Kendry tell Tandy?
 - a. That she never attended Crestman Prep School
 - b. That her father is black
 - c. That her mother is black
 - d. That she has lived in East Atlanta for her entire life

✓ QUICK QUIZ TWO ✓

Chapters 6-11

1. True or False? Kendry corrected Tandy's misunderstanding about her race at the end of the school day?
2. Who shows up at Kendry's house?
 - a. Maurice Maitland
 - b. Madison
 - c. Tandy
 - d. Mrs. Larsen
3. Where does Kendry find Doris when she returns from school?
 - a. Gone without any explanation
 - b. Watching television in her bedroom
 - c. In her car crying
 - d. None of the above
4. Kendry remembers when Doris did which of the following:
 - a. Rode through neighborhoods and speculated for houses
 - b. Bought a new car
 - c. Ran away with Madison for six months
 - d. None of the above
5. Which of the following best describes Madison's hair
 - a. Green
 - b. Spiky
 - c. Blonde and luscious
 - d. In long and knotted dreadlocks
6. True or False: Madison had no idea Kendry called the police.
7. True or False: Kendry slapped Madison?
8. Tandy lives in which of the following:
 - a. Housing projects
 - b. A loft in Buckhead similar to Kendry's former house
 - c. A store front in a strip mall
 - d. A large house, a mansion, with columns and intricate carvings
9. True or False: Tandy makes Kendry promise to keep her good grades a secret.
10. True or False: Tandy has two sisters whose names are Mandy and Randy.

✓ QUICK QUIZ THREE ✓

Chapters 12-18

1. Kendry takes which of the following to use against Madison:
 - a. A Ginsu knife
 - b. A razor blade
 - c. A video, taken with her cell phone, of him unloading drugs
 - d. Doris's journal that chronicles Madison's drug use
2. True or False: Kendry thinks that Madison will use her instead of killing her.
3. During a study session with Tandy, Kendry decides to do which of the following:
 - a. Run away from home
 - b. Ask Tandy if she can move in
 - c. Go on a diet
 - d. Sneak out and find Kush
4. In the chapter "The Whole Truth," which of the following happens:
 - a. Kendry tells Kush that she is white
 - b. Kendry tells Tandy that she is white
 - c. Tandy tells Kendry about her arrangement with Principal Bellews
 - d. Kendry tells Kush that she loves him
5. In the chapter titled "Red Handed," what does Kendry learn?
 - a. That Tandy is biracial
 - b. That Kush and Zing are a member of a group called The Black Rebels
 - c. That no one really believes that she is biracial
 - d. None of the above

✓ QUICK QUIZ FOUR ✓

Chapters 19-22

1. For what do Tandy and Kendry prepare?
 - a. A fashion show
 - b. A trip to Six Flags
 - c. A rap performance
 - d. A Black Rebels rally
2. Who shows up at the school?
 - a. The police
 - b. Barack Obama
 - c. Newscasters
 - d. Students from Crestman Prep School
3. True or False: Kush's speech is successful, resulting in a mass conversion of students to the Black Rebels.
4. Kendry tells Kush which of the following:
 - a. That his speech was ineffective and ridiculous
 - b. That his speech was amazing
 - c. That she is not biracial
 - d. That it is her father, not her mother, who is black
5. After his conversation with Kendry, Kush does the following:
 - a. Yell at her
 - b. Kiss her
 - c. Ask her for help with his next speech
 - d. Reveals that he is also biracial

✓ QUICK QUIZ SIX ✓

Chapters 26-27

1. Who is Umoja?
 - a. Kush's old girlfriend
 - b. Kendry's stepsister
 - c. Tandy's stepsister
 - d. Kendry, with a new name given by Zing
2. Kendry has decided to do the following:
 - a. Become a rapper
 - b. Learn to speak Swahili
 - c. Dreadlock her hair
 - d. Run away from home
3. True or False: The Black Rebels have changed their name to The Panthers of Purple Love?
4. Who shows up at Kendry's house?
 - a. Madison
 - b. Sami Klieg
 - c. Kendry's grandmother
 - d. Tandy's ex-boyfriend

✓ QUICK QUIZ SEVEN ✓

Chapters 28-31

1. True or false: Umoja and Sami resolve the conflict they had at Crestman and pledge to become life-long friends.
2. Which of the following is not a part of the NARC's/Black Rebel's uniform:
 - a. A set of carved beads
 - b. Red gloves
 - c. A head wrap
 - d. A scarf
3. True or False: Umoja does not make her speech at the gathering.
4. Which character earns the nickname "Soul Sista"?
 - a. Celesta
 - b. Umoja
 - c. Tandy
 - d. Meeka
5. Which of the following did not happen in the cafeteria:
 - a. Umoja formed her own table
 - b. Maurice approached Tandy's table
 - c. Maurice offended Umoja
 - d. Umoja slapped Maurice

✓ QUICK QUIZ NINE ✓

Chapters 38-41

1. True or False: Umoja attends a concert with Tandy and Celesta
2. True or False: The artist becomes angry and flustered when Umoja ruins one of her paintings.
3. How does Umoja plan to get the money to pay for the ruined painting?
 - a. She will ask Madison
 - b. She will steal it from Sami Klieg
 - c. She will persuade Law to give it to her
 - d. She will not pay for the painting
4. Who helps Umoja clean up the mess?
 - a. Law
 - b. Madison
 - c. Tandy and Meeka
 - d. Keeshawn

✓ QUICK QUIZ TEN ✓

Chapters 42-45

1. True or False: Umoja has a nightmare that Law arrests her.
2. In the hallway, before classes begin, Umoja does which of the following:
 - a. Laugh at her entire life
 - b. Cry in Mrs. Larsen's arms
 - c. Burn the money she has stolen
 - d. Book a flight to Brazil
3. True or False: Mrs. Larsen allows Umoja to stay home from school for the remainder of the week.
4. True or False: Umoja writes a goodbye note to Tandy.
5. To her group of "friends," Umoja explains the following:
 - a. That her brother, Law, committed suicide
 - b. That she lied about her race in order to fit in
 - c. That her parents are both dead—she was adopted and, thus, does not know her true race
 - d. That she will be leaving for Brazil in a week
6. Kush suggests which of the following:
 - a. That he leave for Brazil with Umoja
 - b. That Umoja stay and face her circumstances
 - c. That the group help Umoja pack for Brazil
 - d. That they arrange a "Second Funeral" for Law
7. True or False: Umoja and Kush shop during the day.
8. At the gathering, Umoja plans to do which of the following:
 - a. Leave while everyone is celebrating
 - b. Tell the truth about her race
 - c. Ask Kush to marry her
 - d. Announce her pregnancy
9. True or False: Maurice Maitland walks out on Umoja's speech.
10. True or False: Zing and Kush are overjoyed by Umoja's news.

✓ QUICK QUIZ ✓

Answer Key

Quick Quiz One

1. A
2. D
3. C
4. D
5. FALSE
6. FALSE
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. C

Quick Quiz Two

1. FALSE
2. B
3. D
4. A
5. B
6. FALSE
7. FALSE
8. D
9. TRUE
10. FALSE

Quick Quiz Three

1. A
2. TRUE
3. D
4. C
5. B

Quick Quiz Four

1. D
2. A
3. FALSE
4. A
5. B

Quick Quiz Five

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Quick Quiz Six

1. D
2. C
3. FALSE
4. B

Quick Quiz Seven

1. FALSE
2. A
3. FALSE
4. B
5. A

Quick Quiz Eight

ANSWERS WILL VARY

Quick Quiz Nine

1. FALSE
2. FALSE
3. C
4. B

Quick Quiz Ten

1. TRUE
2. B
3. FALSE
4. FALSE
5. A
6. D
7. TRUE
8. D
9. FALSE
10. FALSE

Quick Quiz Eleven

ANSWERS WILL VARY

