

QUESTION BRIDGE

QUESTION BRIDGE CURRICULAR TOOLS FOR GRADES 9-12

STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Question Bridge: Black Males was conceived by Chris Johnson. The project was *created by* Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas, in collaboration with Bayete Ross-Smith and Kamal Sinclair. The Executive Producers are Delroy Lindo and Deborah Willis.

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Question Bridge: Black Males is a fiscally sponsored project of the Bay Area Video Coalition and supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Institute: Campaign for Black Male Achievement, the Tribeca Film Institute, the LEF Foundation, the Center for Cultural Innovation, and the California College of the Arts.

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ANALYZE THE STORY

The intricate detail in the brownstone architecture betrays that fact that Devon's neighborhood in the west side of the city used to be beautiful. Now most of those buildings are empty, the street is littered with trash, the park's lawn is overgrown, and the playground equipment is broken. Still, every morning he walks through the park to get to school and tries to imagine it in its former glory. The picture is vivid in his mind because his grandfather and Joe talk about the "good old days" every Sunday when Devon joins them at an old picnic table on the side of the park closest to his grandfather's house to watch them play chess.

They said the park use to be landscaped and all the equipment was kept new. They even had a Neighborhood Park Committee that cultivated patches of flowers between long stretches of green grass and maintained a community garden. In fact, they sold vegetables and fruit out of the garden every Sunday morning. Joe loved that! His wife would make a big pot of soup out of whatever they had in season on Sunday nights and he would take a cup of it to work in a thermos for the rest of the week. "I miss the block parties. The neighborhood musicians would come out to show their skills and compete for best solo of the night. Whoever could get the most people out their seat to dance, was the champ," his grandfather reminisced. "No, the best part of the black parties was Jimmy Jukebox. He was a comedian that got up between sets and told everybody's business. Oh, did he get folks into trouble!" Joe laughed.

One Sunday Devon missed the chess game to go with his mother to visit his Aunt Carla on the east side of town. They drove pass the park in her neighborhood, where he saw a group of teenagers playing basketball, little kids running around a brightly colored playground with their parents running after them, a working stone fountain with a sculpture in the center, a food truck that sold sandwiches and smoothies, and a lot of trees with landscape grass and flowers at their base. Devon wondered why this side of town was so cared for, and his side of town was so neglected.

The next Sunday he asked his grandfather and Joe, "Why is the eastside park so nice, and our park was so messed up? Parents can't even let their kids play here 'cause they could fall down and get cut by some broken glass." They both laughed as his grandfather replied, "Son, back in the day most of the people in our neighborhood had jobs at the factory. About 20 years ago they automated most of the jobs and the folks in this neighborhood didn't have the education to get re-hired in the office. So people ended up leaving, going on public assistance, or turning to other means. When folks are struggling to survive, they don't have the resources to keep things up the way they used to." "Plus, a lot of folks got depressed. It's kinda like the spirit of the neighborhood was broken," Joe chimed in.

"Can't we try to make it beautiful again?" Devon asked. "Well,, I guess so, but I'm an old man and Joe is even older than me. We can't do things like we used to," His grandfather replied. "But I can," said Devon. "I'm benching 100 lbs now." His grandfather and Joe laughed. "Well, all right then! You go on and get some more like you. I'll give you some of my old tools down in the basement and tell you how to fix up some things up around here."

- 1) Devon is apathetic about his environment.
 - a) True
 - b) False

- 2) Devon is running for class president. If he wins he will have more _____ in starting a service club dedicated to improving the neighborhood.
 - a) communication
 - b) agency
 - c) bias
 - d) achievement

- 3) What demographic category is described in the story?
- a) Age
b) Class
c) Race or Ethnicity
d) Sex
- 4) Devon, his grandfather and Joe had an _____ dialogue that empowered him to take a _____ role in his neighborhood. This is a good example of the importance of _____ and _____.
- a) Intergenerational, subordinate, ideas, policy
b) Intergenerational, leadership, mentorship, encouragement
c) opaque, catalyst, mentorship, civil rights
d) Integrated, leadership, identity, culture
- 5) The reader can assume that the west side of the city is _____ and the east side of the city is _____.
- a) old, young
b) white, black
c) poor, rich
d) less intelligent, intelligent
e) black, white
f) none of the above

ANALYZE THE IMAGE



- 6) Select the best description of the four images.
- a) stay-at-home dad, store clerk, minister, rapper
b) hair dresser, business consultant, criminal, minister
c) business consultant, airline pilot, professor, physical trainer
d) rapper, athlete, business consultant, criminal
e) none of the above
f) all of the above
- 7) Which one of these images represents a “sell-out”?
- a) Image 1
b) Image 2
c) Image 3
d) Image 4
e) none of the above
f) all of the above

- 8) Which of the following concepts does this image illustrate?
- a) Code switching
 - b) Multi-faceted identity
 - c) Signifying inclusion through social codes of dress
 - d) None of the above
 - e) All of the above

MATCH THE MEANING

In Column A, write in a letter from Column C the best defines the word in Column B.

	Column A	Column B	Column C
9)		Democracy	A. a continuing process whereby an individual acquires a personal identity and learns the norms, values, behavior, and social skills appropriate to his or her social position.
10)		Estrangement	B. the quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.
11)		Framework	C. government by the people; a form of government in which the supreme power is vested in the people and exercised directly by them or by their elected agents under a free electoral system.
12)		Stereotype	D. a particular tendency or inclination, especially one that prevents unprejudiced consideration of a question; prejudice.
13)		Ethnic	E. to turn away; transfer or divert.
14)		Culture	F. a set of inaccurate, simplistic generalizations about a group that allows others to categorize them and treat them accordingly.
15)		Integrate	G. relating to or characteristic of a human group having racial, religious, linguistic, and certain other traits in common.
16)		Policy	H. a structural plan or basis of a project.
17)		Commodification	I. the expression or designation by some term, character, symbol, or the like.
18)		Socialization	J. a definite course of action adopted for the sake of expediency, facility, etc.
19)		Perception	K. to treat (something) inappropriately as if it can be acquired or marketed like other commodities.
20)		Bias	L. to combine into one unified system.
21)		Representation	M. the act or faculty of apprehending by means of the senses or of the mind; cognition; understanding.

SHORT ANSWER

22) How many identity groups do you belong to? (number only) _____

23) Name up to 20 strategies that create equitable environments of inclusion in a diverse society, both within and between identity groups. (Number each new strategy) _____

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