

Akeelah and the Bee---Reading Questions

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1. What was the most dangerous night of the week in Akeelah's neighborhood?
2. What does the word "implored" mean"? (*African-American and Hispanic kids crammed into the overflowing classrooms, shouting, cursing, pushing one another, and ignoring the teachers who "implored" them to quiet down and take their seats.*)
3. What does the word "resented" mean? (The teachers, for the most part, were tolerated but not obeyed. Already at ten, eleven, and twelve, many of the students at Crenshaw resented any official forms of discipline and fought against them with street anger and street smarts.)

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4. What was "Totally unacceptable" to Ms. Cross?
5. What is another word for to "not stand out"?

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6. What happened to smart students at Akeelah's school?
7. Why did Akeelah's say she did not study for her spelling test?
8. What does the word "stampede"?
9. How many spelling words were on the test?

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10. Which sentence proves Akeelah is bored with her schoolwork?

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11. How long had the flyer been posted on the bulletin board about the Spelling Bee?.
12. What did Akeelah tell Ms. Cross when she told her she should sign up for the Spelling Bee? (What were Akeelah's exact words?)
13. Did Akeelah think any of the Spelling Test words were hard?
14. What movie did Akeelah and Georgia go see recently?

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15. How long has Akeelah's and Georgia been friends?
16. Who is Devon?
17. What type jobs did Georgia think she and Devon were going to have one day?
18. What did the old man's breathing sound like that Akeelah and Georgia meet in front of the liquor store?

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19. What did the whites of the old man eyes look like?
20. What two things did Akeelah kick off the side walk as they walked home?
21. Who is Derrick-T? Why does Akeelah not like him?
22. How old is Akeelah's brother Terrence?

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23. What nickname did Georgia give their teacher?

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24. What was the only photograph in Akeelah's room?
25. What is Akeelah's mother's name?
26. Does Akeelah's think her mother is lazy?
27. What one word on page 19 proves what Akeelah's thinks of her mother's energy level?
28. What is Akeelah's sister name? Kiana How old is she? 17 years old

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29. What was Akeelah's opinion on eating?
30. Why does Akeelah consider her sister Kiana a pest? She does not knock on her door before coming in
31. How did Devon wear his hair?

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32. What does Devon say about how he likes or dislike military food?

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33. What does the term "*war ace*" mean?
34. What does Akeelah mother say will not happen if Akeelah "*keeps skippin class*"?

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- 35 What does the word "*demoralized*" mean in line 24?

Akeelah and the Bee--Reading Questions & Answer Key

Page 9

1. What was the most dangerous night of the week in Akeelah's neighborhood? **Saturday**
2. What does the word "implored" mean"? (*African-American and Hispanic kids crammed into the overflowing classrooms, shouting, cursing, pushing one another, and ignoring the teachers who "implored" them to quiet down and take their seats.*) **begged, insisted, pled**
3. What does the word "resented" mean? (The teachers, for the most part, were tolerated but not obeyed. Already at ten, eleven, and twelve, many of the students at Crenshaw resented any official forms of discipline and fought against them with street anger and street smarts.) **disliked, hated, grudged**

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4. What was "Totally unacceptable" to Ms. Cross? **average scores on the spelling test of 50%**
5. What is another word for to "not stand out"? **anonymous**

Page 11

6. What happened to smart students at Akeelah's school? **They got beat up**
7. Why did Akeelah say she did not study for her spelling test? **She did not want to be labeled as the teacher's pet.**
8. What does the word "stampede"? **rush of people,**
9. How many spelling words were on the test? **30**

Page 12

10. Which sentence proves Akeelah is bored with her schoolwork? **"Yeah. It's kind of boring."**

Page 13

11. How long had the flyer been posted on the bulletin board about the Spelling Bee? **for weeks.**
12. What did Akeelah tell Ms. Cross when she told her she should sign up for the Spelling Bee? (What were Akeelah's exact words?) **"I'm not interested."**
13. Did Akeelah think any of the Spelling Test words were hard? **No**
14. What movie did Akeelah and Georgia go see recently? **Hustle & Flow**

Page 14

15. How long has Akeelah's and Georgia been friends? **since they were toddlers**
16. Who is Devon? **Akeelah's twenty-year-old brother**
17. What type jobs did Georgia think she and Devon were going to have one day? **Devon: pilot and Georgia: flight attendant**
18. What did the old man's breathing sound like that Akeelah and Georgia meet in front of the liquor store? **steam escaping from a leaky pipe**

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19. What did the whites of the old man eyes look like? **the color of egg yolks**
20. What two things did Akeelah kick off the side walk as they walked home? **a soiled grapefruit half and cans**
21. Who is Derrick-T? **Drug dealer** Why does Akeelah not like him? **Bad influence on her brother**

Terrance

22. How old is Akeelah's brother Terrence? **14 years old**

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23. What nickname did Georgia give their teacher? **Cross Face**

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24. What was the only photograph in Akeelah's room? **dead father**

25. What is Akeelah's mother's name? **Tanya**

26. Does Akeelah's think her mother is lazy? **no**

27. What one word on page 19 proves what Akeelah's thinks of her mother's energy level?
busybody

28. What is Akeelah's sister name? Kiana How old is she? **17 years old**

Page 18

29. What was Akeelah's opinion on eating? **She seldom thought of eating as anything more than a natural function to maintain strength and life**

30. Why does Akeelah consider her sister Kiana a pest? **She does not knock on her door before coming in**

31. How did Devon wear his hair? **military brush cut**

Page 19

32. What does Devon say about how he likes or dislike military food? **Military chow does not cut it."**

Page 20

33. What does the term "*war ace*" mean? **Fighter pilot**

34. What does Akeelah mother say will not happen if Akeelah "*keeps skippin class*"? **She will not get her wings (pilot) and college degree**

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35. What does the word "*demoralized*" mean in line 24? **discouraged, depressed, dismayed, dispirited**