

“The Human Race”
By Jack Bloomfield

Characters

Denise

Gloria (Denise’s friend and confidant)

Student #1

Student #2

Student #3

Student #4

Student #5

Student #6

Synopsis

Denise is a light skinned black girl who was adopted as a 2 year old girl by Jewish parents. She goes through her whole childhood and teenage years being teased and humiliated. She would always be asked the question, “What race are you?” and she never really knew how to answer. She would ask herself if she was black or white, Christian or Jewish, African, Spanish, Cuban, South American etc. She didn’t really know. Finally one day when she is 16 yrs old and has been beaten down so long with teasing and humiliation, when confronted with the question, “What race are you?” she reaches deep down to find a powerful answer.

MESSAGE FOCUS: *Addresses the harm of teasing in regards to someone’s race and that we ultimately all belong to the same race. The human race.*

Denise is a 10th grade high school student. She is a light skinned black girl who was abandoned as a baby and adopted by a very loving Jewish couple when she was two years old. Ever since she started school in 1st grade, kid's have always teased her and made fun of the fact that she is not white or black. She has been hurt so much that she is unable to ignore it anymore.

Opening scene:

(Denise and Gloria are sitting eating lunch in the school lunchroom. Denise is pouring her guts out to Gloria how she is so depressed and alone.)

Denise:

“I don’t know Gloria, how much more I can take. Another kid and his friend came up to me again today and were laughing at me. They were making fun of me because of my skin color, saying all kinds of hurtful things.”

Gloria:

“What do you mean? What were they saying?”

Denise:

“It’s the same thing as always. They call me names and ask “So what race are you?” I was adopted when I was two by a very loving and devoted white Jewish couple who have raised me my whole life up until now.”

Gloria:

“What happened to your real Mom and Dad?”

Denise:

I’ve never been able to find that out. As much as that hurts, I have always considered myself lucky to have been adopted by two people who love me. The way other kids always tease me, a lot of times I wish I was never born.

Gloria:

“You’ve just got to ignore them. I’m your friend and I care about you.”

Denise:

“You don’t get it Gloria. It hurts real deep inside when people treat you as if you are a just a thing.”

(As they are talking two students come up and begin a dialogue.)

Student #1:

(sarcastically) “Looks like you all are hurtin for friends. Can we join you?”

Student #2:

“Yea, can we sit down?”

Denise:

(with great apprehension) “Great! Sure! Come on and sit down.”

Student #2:

(laughing) “It’s gonna cost you. We charge a fee to be friends with a freak.”

Student #1:

“If you come up with some cash, we’ll be your friend. By the way, what race are you anyway?” (Student 1&2 walk away laughing and saying Freak! Freak!)

Denise:

“See Gloria. It never stops. They tease and call me names. They make me think to myself, Really, What am I? Am I a freak?”

(Denise and Gloria begin to get up and head out of the cafeteria. At that moment they see 4 students pointing at them and laughing. They begin to get closer and one of the students slams into Denise, knocking her book bag to the floor.)

Student#3:

(mockingly) “Oh I’m really sorry. I didn’t see you coming. Aren’t you that girl who nobody can figure out? What race are you anyway?”

Student#4:

“Yea, What are you? Are you black or white?”

Student#5:

“I don’t think she’s either. I think she’s a Mexican.”

(Denise begins to cry and turns to Gloria for support.)

Student #3:

“Come on now girl. Toughen up. I thought all Puerto Ricans are tough. You are Puerto Rican aren’t you?”

Gloria:

’Why don’t you all *back off!* You’re going too far.

Student #6:

“OK we’ll back off if she’ll let us know once and for all what she is. I know she’s not Chinese cause her eyes aren’t slanted.

Student# 4:

“I got, I got it. She’s Cuban. Isn’t that right girl? Oh and I heard she’s Jewish too. A Cuban Jew. What’s up with that?”

(Denise begins to cry even harder. They begin to poke her and push her.)

(All Students begin calling out at the same time)

“Cuban, Black, White, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Jew.

Student #6:

“Man, it’s pretty sad when you don’t even know what you are.
(Laughing, one more time he asks.)So, what are you?”

(Denise begins to come forward to the front of the stage facing the audience sobbing but showing anger at the same time that she has had to endure a life of teasing and being made fun of because of her skin color.)

Denise:

“What am I? What race do I belong to? Am I Christian or Jewish? Am I black or White? Am I Mexican, Puerto Rican or Cuban?”

(Is at a point of rage, crying, sobbing takes a deep breath and falls to her knees screaming as loud as she can looking up into the sky, arms raised over head.) I can’t take it anymore. I can’t take it anymore. I know what I am damn it, (slowly) I’M A HUMAN BEING, I’M A HUMAN BEING, I’M A HUMAN BEING and ***I belong to One Race. The Human Race!***”

Fade to Black....

THE END

Dialogue and questions:

When someone asks you what race you are, what do you say?

How different does that make you from someone who is from a different race or culture?

What are your similarities?

What does it feel like to be teased and called names?

Is the color of someone’s skin or how they appear on the outside how we should judge someone?

How did Martin Luther King Jr. say we should judge another person?

What does the term “racial profiling” mean and do we live our life ever looking at others in this way?