

AKEELAH AND THE BEE

by  
Doug Atchison

**Akeelah's Character Arc**

1<sup>st</sup> scene...

AKEELAH (V.O.)

You know that feeling where no matter what you do or where you go, you just don't fit in? I don't know the word for that. Alienation. Estrangement. Incompatability. Nah. Those ain't right. But there's gotta be a word for it. 'Cause it's how I feel all the time. My name's Akeelah Anderson and I'm eleven years old. And this all starts at Crenshaw Middle School in South Los Angeles. \*

Last scene...

AKEELAH (V.O.)

You know that feeling where everything feels right? Where you don't have to worry about tomorrow or yesterday... where you feel safe and know you're doing the best you can... There's a word for that feeling. It's called "love." L - O - V - E. And it's what I feel for all my family...all my coaches...in my neighborhood...where I come from...where I learned how to spell.

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\* Note that this dialogue, which is in the movie's first scene, is not the same as that printed in our version of the script. This means there were still further revisions after the 3/13/05 draft and if time allows, in future classes, students might look for other changes by Doug Atchison, the writer/director.