

"Lights, Camera, Literacy! PART TWO"
Symbolism and Metaphors: Akeelah's Glasses
ANSWER KEY

Activity question: When does Doug Atchison have Akeelah wear her glasses in the film AKEELAH AND THE BEE?

Place a check next to each scene where you think Akeelah was wearing her glasses:

- 1) Opening scene: Walking in her neighborhood.
- 2) Receiving her 100% spelling test from her teacher.
- 3) Playing the computer Scrabble game in her room.
- 4) Meeting Dr. Larabee for the first time at school.
- 5) Taking part in her school spelling bee.
- 6) Watching the tape of the National Spelling Bee.
- 7) Going to Dr. Larabee's house for the first time.
- 8) Studying words in the dictionary.
- 9) Going to the Los Angeles (L.A.) School District Spelling Bee.
- 10) Registering for the L.A. District Spelling Bee.
- 11) Riding home from the L.A. District Spelling Bee.
- 12) Going to Woodland Hills for the study group.
- 13) Studying with Dr. Larabee at his home.
- 14) Going to Javier's birthday party.
- 15) Being interviewed by the television reporters.
- 16) Talking to herself in the mirror at the National Spelling Bee.
- 17) Ending scene: Montage in her neighborhood.

Was there any pattern or metaphorical interpretation that guided your guesses? *(Accept any answer.)*

As you now watch AKEELAH AND THE BEE again, check your answers and change any that were incorrect, so that you have an accurate list of the times Akeelah did or did not wear her glasses.

What do you think Doug Atchison wanted Akeelah's glasses to represent?

Perhaps he wanted to show when she felt comfortable showing her true self instead of hiding how smart she was. (Accept other reasonable answers that can be supported.)