

# AKEELAH AND THE BEE

**AKEELAH AND THE BEE . CHARACTERS** : Joshua Larabee/ Akeelah Anderson/ Derick T(leader of a gang)/ Javier Mendez/ Dylan Watanabe/ Terrence Anderson (Akeelah's brother= a hooligan) / Devon Anderson(Akeelah's brother : he is in the army)/ Georgia / The Principal of Crenshaw school/ Tanya Andersonn(Akeelah's mother)/ Kiana Anderson and her baby(Akeelah's sister)



Akeelah Anderson, an 11-year-old spelling enthusiast, attends Crenshaw Middle School, a predominantly [black school](#) in [South Los Angeles](#). She lives with her [widowed](#) mother, Tanya, her older sister Kiana, her older brothers Devon and Terrence, and her infant niece. Her principal, Mr. Welch suggests that she sign up for the Crenshaw Schoolwide Spelling Bee. She follows his advice and ends up winning. Soon after, Dr. Joshua Larabee, a visiting English professor and Mr. Welch's friend from college, tests Akeelah and decides that she is good enough to compete in the National Spelling Bee. Nevertheless, Dr. Larabee declines to coach her because she is rude to him. As a result, Akeelah studies on her own to prepare for the district spelling bee. Although Akeelah misspells her word during the final round of the bee, she qualifies for the regional bee when her sister Kiana catches the other finalist cheating. She also meets and befriends Javier Mendez, a 12-year-old [Mexican American](#) boy and fellow speller. Javier invites her to join the spelling club at his [Woodland Hills](#) middle school.

At Woodland Hills, Akeelah meets Dylan Chiu, a [Chinese American](#) boy who had won second place at the past two national spelling bees. Contemptuous, he asks her to spell "[xanthosis](#)". When she starts with a "z", he tells her she needs a coach. At the conclusion of the spelling club meeting, Javier invites Akeelah to his birthday party. At the party, Akeelah nearly beats Dylan in [Scrabble](#). The boy is reprimanded by his father for nearly losing to "a little black girl". After the party, Tanya is depressed over her husband's death and concerned about her daughter's grades and frequent [truancy](#). She subsequently forbids Akeelah from participating in the upcoming state bee. To circumvent this prohibition, Akeelah forges her deceased father's signature on the consent form and secretly studies with Dr. Larabee. During the state bee, Tanya comes inside and interrupts her daughter before she can spell her word. Tanya relents after a side discussion with Dr. Larabee and Mr. Welch. Javier protects Akeelah from disqualification by stalling until she can return. Dylan, Javier, and Akeelah advance to the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

**As Christmas approaches, Akeelah goes out to buy Dr. Larabee a present, but when she meets him, he reveals that he is quitting being her coach because she reminds him of his deceased daughter Denise. Instead, he gives Akeelah 5,000 flashcards to study. Without her coach, rejected by her best friend Georgia, and feeling the pressure from her neighborhood residents to make them proud, Akeelah loses her motivation. However, Tanya tells her that if she looked around her, she would realize that she has "50,000 coaches". Akeelah recruits her family members, classmates, teachers, friends, and neighbor Derrick T to prepare in earnest. After reuniting with Dr. Larabee, Akeelah goes to [Washington, D.C.](#) with him, along with Tanya, Georgia, Mr. Welch, and her oldest brother, Devon, unaware that her coach has paid for four of their tickets. Georgia rekindles their friendship with Akeelah after Akeelah invites her. During the competition, Akeelah becomes a crowd favorite. After all the other competitors are eliminated, only Dylan and Akeelah remain. The two finalists are allowed a break, during which Akeelah overhears Dylan's father harshly pressuring him to win. Akeelah attempts to [intentionally lose](#) by deliberately misspelling "xanthosis". Dylan, knowing that Akeelah knows this word, intentionally misspells it as well. Dylan tells Akeelah that he wants a fair competition, rejecting his father's obsession to win. The two then proceed to spell every word listed by the judges in the hopes of winning the championship together, with Dylan earning a share of it by correctly spelling "logorrhea", much to his father's delight. Akeelah spells the last word on the list, "pulchritude", and the two are declared co-champions amidst a cheering crowd.**

## AKEELAH AND THE BEE

### Part 1

Spell= épeler

bee : abeille

**DID : pour parler au passé, au prétérit. Did you go to school ? Yes, I went to school/ No, I didn't go to school.**

The Anderson family(mother, two sons, and two daughters(filles) live in a black neighbourhood in South Los Angeles, a dangerous area. Akeelah Anderson in a small girl. She is twelve years old. Akeelah goes to school at « Crenshaw », it is not a good school, it has a lot of graffiti and broken(cassées) toilet doors. There are too many(trop de) pupils in the classroom and they are very insolent. Miss Cross is Akeelah's teacher. There are forty students in her class ! Miss Cross gives the tests. They all have bad marks(mauvaises notes). She asks(demande) Akeelah:**How long did you study(combien de temps as-tu étudié) for this spelling test ? ».** Akeelah answers(répond) : **I didn't study for it.** The teacher looks at her with(avec) surprise. « **See me after class** », says the teacher. Akeelah looks at her test and sees she has 100 % !

**Teacher :** You know you could be(pourrais être) one of my best students, probably the best(la meilleure). But you don't give your homework(devoirs) and you don't come(venir) to class. What's going on(que se passe-t-il?)

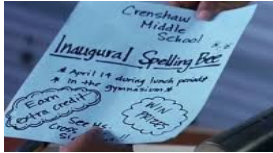
**Akeelah :** I don't know. I think the work is boring(ennuyeux)

**Teacher :** Akeelah, next week (la semaine prochaine)there is a spelling bee at school. I think you should go(tu devrais aller).

**Akeelah :** I'm not interested.

**Teacher :** But you have talent !

**Akeelah :** Can I go now ?



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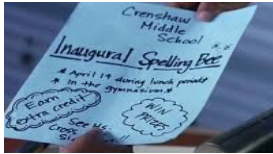
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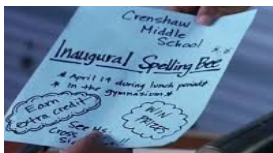
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## Akeelah and the bee part 2.

Akeelah is at home with her mother, Tanya, her sister Kiana(a single mother who is seventeen) and her brother Devon who is in the army. Devon is very nice with Akeelah. Devon likes his mother's food. They don't know where Terrence is. He is with Derrick-T, a hooligan(délinquant). Akeelah watches a spelling bee or the first time on TV and doesn't want to eat. Dream : rêver practice : s'entraîner word : mot sentence : phrase

Kiana : Keelie, Mama says go eat.

Akeelah : I'm about to get a high score. One minute.

Kiana : I don't care. Mama says come eat!

Devon : Oh yeah! I've been dreaming about your cooking for the past five months.

Let me take that.

Tanya : At least I got one baby appreciate what I do around here.

We all appreciate you. Hey-- give me some sugar.

Tanya : Where is Terrence? - I don't know. Maybe still at practice.

Practice was over an hour ago. I know one thing-- he better not be hanging out with no Derrick-T.

- You better not be skipping no class.

- Akeelah, go turn off that television.

Man on TV: ...no more poisonous sprays, no more glue traps, and no more throwing your money away. The scientific design of the-- If you spell the next word correctly, you will be the champion.

- What's this? - Akeelah, turn off the TV now.

- 'Brunneous. ' - B... R-U-N-- N-E-O-U-S.

- Brunneous. - Congratulations.

You are the Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion.



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Part 3



**Akeelah is in the principal's office(Mr Welch) with Dr Larabee. He says Akeelah always gets 100/100 in her spelling tests. He wants her to take part in the National Spelling bee competition. When Akeelah says that she doesn't want to take part in the Spelling Bee, Mr Welch ask her if she wants detentions(heures de retenue). Finally she agrees to take part in the Spelling Bee.**

**Try : essayer win : gagner freak:bête curieuse**

**Principal:** So, Ms. Cross tells me you've never missed a word on your spelling tests. But your attendance record leaves a little to be desired. You're 11, did you skip a grade? -

**Akeelah:** The second.

Akeelah, have you ever heard of the Scripps National Spelling Bee?

**Akeelah:** I think it was on TV last week. - Yes!

**Principal:**Yes, they show it on ESPN every year.

Middle school students from all over the country compete in school district and regional spelling bees trying to make it to the national spelling bee in Washington DC.

Next year, I want one of our students there.

So whoever wins the school bee today gets to represent Crenshaw at the district bee - next month.

**Akeelah:** Why would anybody want to represents a school that can't even put doors on the toilet stalls? ( Joshua coughs ) Akeelah, if we can't show our students can perform, we're not going to have money for books, let alone bathroom doors.

**Principal:** Now, I want you to do the bee today, all right?

So everybody can call me a freak and a brainiac? No, I ain't down for no spelling bee.

**Principal:**Well, maybe you'd be 'down' for spending the rest of the semester in detention for all of your absences.

**Woman:** I'd like to welcome you all to Crenshaw's first schoolwide spelling bee.

We have some very special students competing today, so let's give them all a round of applause. Whoop!

Akeelah, your word is 'doubt.'

I'm sorry, Akeelah, you have to speak up.

**Akeelah:** D-O-U-B-T. Very good.

**Woman:** Next, Calvin Baker... P-L-A-S-I-D. Placid. I'm sorry, it's P-L-A-C-I-D.

**Woman:** Okay, Akeelah, if you get this word you will be the winner. 'Fanciful.'

**Akeelah:** - F-A-N-C-I-F-U-L. - **Georgia:** Whoa. - That is correct, and you have won Crenshaw's inaugural spelling bee.

**Akeelah:** Whoop! Whatever. Excuse me.

**Dr Larabee:** Spell 'prestidigitation.' **Woman:** I'm sorry, sir, but this girl is only 11, and she's already won. Mr. Welch, what is this?

**Dr Larabee:** Prestidigitation, can you spell it? P-R-E-S-T-I-D-I-G-I-T-A-T-I-O-N, prestidigitation. That's correct.

Whoop! **Dr Larabee:** 'Ambidextrous.' - **Akeelah:**A-M-B-I-D-E-X-T-R-O-U-S.

**Dr Larabee:** 'Pterodactyl.' -**Akeelah:** P-T-E-R-O-D-A-C-T-Y-L.

**Dr Larabee:** 'Pulchritude.' -**Akeelah:** P... P-U-L-C... R... I-T-U-D-E... pulchritude? That's incorrect. It's from the Latin root 'pulcher'

and there's an H after the C. **Girl:** See? She ain't so smart.

Who is in the principal's office ?.....

Does she want to do the spelling be ?.....

Does she win the school's spelling bee ? .....

Can she spell Pulchritude ? .....

**Part 4**                    learn : apprendre                    maybe : peut-être  
understand :comprendre    help : aide/aider

**Dr Larabee** : You're late.

**Akeelah** : You didn't answer the door.

**Dr Larabee** - That's because you're late.    Come in. Come come come.

So... you want to learn how to spell.

**Akeelah** : I know how to spell.

**Dr Larabee** Spell ''staphylococci.'' - Um... S-T-A-F--

There is no F. It's derived from the Greek so there can't be an F.

Staphylococci: S-T-A-- P-H-Y-- L-O-C-O-- C-C-l. Winning word, national spelling bee 1 987. The first thing most serious spellers do is learn all of the winning words and their origins.

Well, maybe I ain't that serious.Maybe neither am I.

**Akeelah** : So why are you home during the day? - Ain't you got a job?

**Dr Larabee**- Do me a favor, leave the ghetto talk outside, all right?

**Akeelah** Ghetto talk? I don't talk ghetto.

**Dr Larabee** Hm, ''ain't you got no job?'' You use that language to fit in with your friends.

Here you will speak properly or you won't speak at all.Understood?

**Akeelah**- Yeah. Whatever.

**Dr Larabee** You can leave now.

**Akeelah**- Excuse me?

**Dr Larabee** I said you can leave.

**Akeelah**- How come?

**Dr Larabee** Because I don't have time to waste on insolent little girls. Insolent?

**Akeelah**- I ain't insol-- I mean I'm not insolent. It's just the first thing you do is start doggin' on-- criticizing the way I speak. I thought this was just about spelling words. Well then, fine. You know what? When I put my mind to it, I can memorize anything. And I don't need help from a dictatorial, truculent, supercilious gardener. I'm sorry to be so insolent.



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**Part 5. Akeelah is competing in the Beverly hills spelling bee. She is not happy to be with her sister because her baby is crying. She makes a friend, Javier, who is very nice to her. Dylan Chiu only thinks of winning. The words are more difficult now.**  
Cry : pleurer win : gagner



I think you're the first speller we've ever had from Crenshaw Middle School.  
Um... how many kids are in this thing? 139. Next.  
**Javier** : Need some help? Don't worry, I won't impale you. This your first time?  
**Akeelah** : Yeah. You?  
**Javier** : Second year. I made it to nationals last year, finished 13th. Lucky 13.  
**Akeelah** :You went all the way to DC? Three of us made it from my school in Woodland Hills.  
**Javier** :See that kid right there? That's Dylan Chiu.  
He's come in second place at nationals for two years in a row.  
This is his last year and everybody thinks he's gonna win.  
Frankly, I'd like to shove him off a steep precipice.  
Hey, my name is Javier.  
**Akeelah** : I'm Akeelah.  
**Javier** : Hope you make the top 10.  
**Akeelah** :I hope I'm not the first one out. (...)  
Woman: 'Eminent. ' Man: Did you hear the word?  
I'm not sure if you're saying imminent or eminent.  
- Would you like a definition? - That'd be cool.  
**Woman**: Eminent: rising above other things or places. High; lofty...  
eminent. E-M-I-N-E-N-T, - eminent? - That's correct. That's correct.  
'Hypertrophic.' H-Y-P-E-R-T-R-O-P-H-I-C, - hypertrophic. - That's correct.  
That's correct. Woman: 'Concierge. ' Is that like a guy who stands around in a hotel?  
Man: Speak into the mike, please. And yes, it's a head porter or doorkeeper.  
Akeelah: C-O-N-C-- I-E-R-G-E. Man: That's correct. You're doing great!  
I'm getting lucky. - I could be getting words like-- - Polydactyly.  
( bell rings ) We're down to 11 spellers.  
The top 10 qualify for the Southern California regional finals.  
In the next round-- ( baby crying ) --if you miss a word do not leave the stage--  
--as you may have an opportunity to compete for any remaining places.  
Kiana, get that baby out of here. So... let's begin.  
...L-L-O-G-I-Z-E, syllogize. That's correct. 'Synecdoche.' Si-neck-do-kee?  
Synecdoche. You wanna tell me what that means?  
A figure of speech in which a part is used for a whole;  
an individual for a class; a material for a thing; or the reverse of any of these.  
**Man**: We need you to spell the word.  
S... I... N... E... C... D-O... K-E-Y? Synecdoche? ( bell rings )  
**Woman**: The correct spelling is S-Y-N-E-C-- D-O-C-H-E.  
**Man**: If you spell this correctly, you'll be our 10th and last finalist.  
**Woman**: 'Carmagnole. ' Could I get a definition, please?  
A lively song and street dance. Um... C... A... R... M... A... G-N-O-L-E, carmagnole.  
That's correct and that means you are our 10th and last finalist  
for the district bee. **They cheated! They cheated!**  
I saw them! That boy's mama helped him out. Man: What-- excuse me.  
- Who are you?  
- I'm Keelie's sister. I was standing back there and I saw that boy's mama give him the letter  
G. She was saying 'geeeee.'  
**Woman** :He knew the word! I mean-- it's one we studied.  
- He knew it. - Ma'am...  
did you help your child spell the word?  
Ma'am, this is serious business.  
**Woman** :Oh, you're damn right it's serious! You are gonna give these kids ulcers!  
Do you know how long he has studied for this? He knew that word.  
**Boy** : No, I didn't.  
**Man** : I'm sorry, number 62, you are disqualified from competition. Which means, number 54, if  
you can spell one more word correctly you'll be our 10th and last finalist.  
'Pastiche.'  
**Akeelah** : P-A-S-T-I-C-H-E, pastiche.  
That's correct. That means you've qualified for the Southern California regional finals.  
**Javier** :Here's my number. We have a spelling club in my school, maybe you  
should come practice with us sometime.  
**Akeelah** : That sounds fun.  
**Javier**Yeah, it's cool. Hey, there's my folks. I'll catch you later.  
**Akeelah** :Okay. Bye. - Bye. Where is Akeelah? What happens(que se passe-t-il)?

**Part 6: at Beverly hills.** Akeelah goes to practise at Beverly Hills school. She meets Dylan and Javier. Javier invites her to his birthday party.

**Akeelah:** Dylan? I'm Akeelah. Javier said I can come and join the study group today.

**Dylan:** All those rejects do that. My father coaches me privately. Who's your coach?

**Akeelah:** I haven't got one.

**Dylan:** How many spelling bees have you won?

**Akeelah:** Just the one at my school.

**Dylan:** Spell 'xanthosis.'

**Akeelah:** Z-A-- - It starts with an X.

**Dylan:** If that idiot hadn't been caught cheating you wouldn't have won.

- 'Euphoric.' - Euphoric is an adjective. Origin Greek. It means like feeling great and everything.

Either spell the word or take a shot. If you miss either one you get a strike. Three strikes, you're out. Euphoric, E-U-- P-H-O-R-I-C... euphoric. 'Psoriasis.'

Are you taking Latin at your school? Psoriasis is a noun, origin Greek.

**Akeelah:** Are you kidding? My school barely has enough money for kickballs.

- There's no Latin classes. - Latin helps you understand words.

Psoriasis is like itchy skin.

**Javier:** Maybe your mom could drive you up here to take it with us.

**Akeelah:** I don't know. This is all starting to sound real heavy.

**Javier:** It is heavy. Spelling bees are serious shit.

I think I'll take a shot.

On second thought, could I spell the word?

**Akeelah:** At Crenshaw they think I'm a **freak**.

**Javier:** Don't worry. They think we're freaks here too. Hey, there's my mom. Need a ride?

**Akeelah:** Oh... naw. My mom's gonna pick me up. She should be here soon.

**Javier:** Hey, I'm having a birthday party in a few weeks. You want to come?

**Akeelah:** Maybe. If I can.

**Javier:** It was cool seeing you again, Akeelah. Bye.

**Akeelah:** Bye.



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On second thought, could I spell the word?

**Akeelah:** At Crenshaw they think I'm a **freak**.

**Javier:** Don't worry. They think we're freaks here too. Hey, there's my mom. Need a ride?

**Akeelah:** Oh... naw. My mom's gonna pick me up. She should be here soon.

**Javier:** Hey, I'm having a birthday party in a few weeks. You want to come?

**Akeelah:** Maybe. If I can.

**Javier:** It was cool seeing you again, Akeelah. Bye.

**Akeelah:** Bye.



**Part 7 At Dr Larabee's first lesson** Akeelah wants Dr Larabee to be her coach. She goes to his house. She rings at his house. After a few moments, Dr Larabee answers the door. Akeelah says that she learnt all the winning words since 1924. She is ready to start the lessons. She looks in his house and make comments on pictures.

**Lucky: chanceux/ceuse** **schedule: emploi du temps** **Goals: buts, objectifs**  
**aloud: à voix haute**

**Akeelah:** That's a very pretty lady. Is she your wife?

**Dr Larabee:** Listen, you got very lucky at the district bee. The competition at state level is much stronger.

So if you... and I were to prepare for that, we'd have to do it on my schedule.

So we'd have to work three hours each morning starting at 9:00.

- Can you handle that? - **Akeelah** Well, I do have summer school.

**Dr Larabee:** But Mr. Welch said working with you could take the place of it.

Isn't that for students who don't perform satisfactorily during the year?

Well, sometimes it's for kids want to get ahead for next year. - Yes, please put that down. Just-- yeah.

**Dr Larabee:** Have you-- have you got any goals? **Akeelah** - Hmm? - Goals--

**Dr Larabee:** What would you like to be when you grow up? A doctor, a lawyer, a standup comic.

**Akeelah** I don't know. The only thing I'm good at is spelling.

**Dr Larabee:** Go over there and read the quotation that's on the wall. Read it aloud please.

**Akeelah** 'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.

Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.

We ask ourselves 'Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?'

Actually, who are you not to be? We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.'

**Akeelah** Does that mean anything to you? - I don't know. - It's written in plain English. **Dr**

**Larabee:** What does it mean? **Akeelah** - That I'm not supposed to be afraid.

- **Dr Larabee:** Afraid of what? **Akeelah** Afraid of... me?



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**Part 8 Javier's birthday party.** Kiana, Akeelah's sister drives Akeelah and her friend Georgia to Javier's birthday party. They are surprised to see that it is a biig birthday party and finally, Georgia doesn't want to go with Akeelah.

I'm going to go= je vais partir borrow: emprunter

**Akeelah** Here it is, here it is. Stop stop stop stop. Girl, Mom would trip if she knew we borrowed the car for this.

That's why Mama isn't going to know.

**Akeelah** Come on, Georgia.

**Georgia:** Ummm... I'm going to know go to the mall with Kiana.

But I thought you wanted to go to this party.

**Javier:** Hey, Akeelah!

**Akeelah:** Are you sure? - **Georgia:** Yeah. Come on, let's go.

**Javier** How are you? **Akeelah** Oh, thank you.

**Akeelah:** Why did you invite him?

**Javier:** My dad's friends with his dad. I'm surprised he showed up. Hey, you want to see my house?

- Yeah. - **Javier** Let's go. This is my father's office. He's a journalist and he's written like a bunch of books. What's your father do?

**Akeelah** My daddy... he used to work for the city parks.

Man, you got a lot of friends. I never had a birthday party this big.

**Javier** I'd think you'd have lots of friends.

**Akeelah** Why did you do that? - I had an impulse.

**Javier** Are you going to sue me for sexual harassment? ( both laughing ) That was fun.

**Akeelah** What are they doing down there?

**Javier:** Oh no, Dylan brought his Scrabble games.

**Akeelah** Scrabble?



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## Part 9

**Akeelah:** - 'Effervescent.' - E-F-F-- ( dog barking ) E-R-V-E-- S-E-N-T, - effervescent.

**Dr Larabee:** Come on, you know this word.

**Akeelah:** That dog's distracting me.

**Dr Larabee:** You're gonna have much bigger distractions when you get to the national bee in DC.

Now what is that you're doing with your hand, hmm?

**Akeelah:** What?

**Dr Larabee:** With your hand, your hand? You-- you-- you-- - you tap, like that. What is that?

**Akeelah:** I don't know. So why do you got all these toys for?

**Dr Larabee:** They belonged to my niece.

**Akeelah:** Oh. So you got any kids of your own?

**Dr Larabee:** You ask a lot of questions, don't you?

**Akeelah:** I'm naturally inquisitive. Which is also sometimes confused with being naturally obnoxious. **Dr Larabee:** Here. Let me see you jump rope.

**Akeelah:** Just jump?

**Dr Larabee:** Yes, just jump.

**Akeelah:** Is there a point to this?

**Dr Larabee:** Yes, there is. Keep going. I said keep going. Concentrate. Stay focused. Spell effervescent. Don't think about anything else. Come on.

Go.

**Akeelah:** E-F-F-E-- - R-V-E-S-- - Good! C-E-N-T, - effervescent.

**Dr Larabee:** You see that? That's your trick. That's your mnemonic device.

**Akeelah:** Jumping rope?

**Dr Larabee:** Keeping time, keeping time. You see kids at the bee-- they do all kinds of things.

They-- they sway back and forth. They... turn around, turn around in circles.

Anything they have to do to stay focused.

You keep time. And I bet you if you learned the words while you kept time you would remember them even better.



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**Part 10** During the competition, Akeelah's mum comes and says she wants to talk to Akeelah. She wants to know why her daughter lied, she didn't know that she was doing the competition. Mrs Anderson says that there are no more competitions for Akeelah. Mr Larabee explains(explique) who he is. Finally, her mum says that she can finish the competition.

**Chores: tâches ménagères**

I swear we thought you were on board with this, Mrs. Anderson.

**Mrs Anderson:** You want to tell me what the heck is going on here? Because I never signed a consent form.

**Akeelah:** I signed Daddy's name.

**Mrs Anderson:** You did what?! How do you think I felt when Javier's mother calls me to see if I need a ride to USC? I don't know who she is or what she's talking about.

**Akeelah:** I'm sorry, Mama. I just wanted to do the bee.

**Mrs Anderson:** By lying? By going behind my back for the last six months? You might as well say goodbye to your little friends, Akeelah, because this is your last spelling bee.

**Joshua Larabee:** I apologize, Mrs. Anderson, if we've contributed to any anguish you may be feeling.

**Mrs Anderson:** And who are you exactly?

**Joshua Larabee:** My name is Joshua Larabee, ma'am. And I've been-- well, I've been helping Akeelah prepare herself for the spelling bee.

**Mrs Anderson:** Why didn't you tell me about this?

**Akeelah:** Mama, I hated going behind your back, but every time I brought up the bee, you didn't want to hear it. I didn't know what to do.

**Mrs Anderson:** You must want this thing pretty bad because you have never lied to me before in your life. So maybe you can tell me what you think a good punishment would be for what you did.

**Akeelah:** I guess I've got to miss the bee. **Mrs Anderson:** But that doesn't just punish you. Mr. Welch and Dr. Larabee have put a lot of time into this too. So you think of something else.

**Akeelah:** Maybe double chores for the month. **Mrs Anderson:** For the next three months. She still got time to get back up on that stage? If we move very quickly, yes.

**Mrs Anderson:** Well, I guess you'd better get a move on. We haven't much time. Come on, come on. **Akeelah:** Thank you, Mama. **Mrs Anderson:** All right.



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**Part 11: Akeelah is a celebrity.** Georgia, Akeelah's best friend, is very happy that Akeelah has become a star. She wants to go out with her but Akeelah says that Javier's parents have invited him.  
A reporter interviews Akeelah about her success.



**Georgia:** Oh girl, you like a movie star now.

**Akeelah:** I know. It's pretty crazy.

**Georgia:** Hey, my mama said she want to take us out to celebrate tonight.

**Akeelah:** Javier's parents are taking me out.

- **Georgia:** But maybe we can-- - Akeelah, excuse me. I'm sorry.

**Mr Welch:** There's a reporter here and she wants to talk to you.

**Akeelah:** I don't want to talk to no reporter. - Are you kidding?

**Mr Welch:** This is exactly the kind of good publicity Crenshaw needs. Excuse us! Sorry.

**Reporter:** Hi, this is Lauren Sanchez reporting from South Los Angeles. I'm here with 11-year-old Akeelah Anderson.

She's a seventh grader from Crenshaw Middle School who's heading to the national spelling bee. How does it feel now that you're going to be going to Washington DC?

**Akeelah:** It's pretty cool. **Reporter:-** Are you excited?

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**Part 12: Learn your flashcards.** Akeelah is tired of the lessons and wants to do something fun with Dr Larabee. He doesn't want to do anything. He calls Akeelah Denise. Denise was his daughter, she died. Dr Larabee gives her flashcards and tells her to learn them. He will stop giving her lessons now.

**Akeelah:** Why can't we take a break, go to a movie, to a basketball game? Why can't we have fun?

**Dr Larabee:** I told you, Denise, you can have fun after the bee.

**Akeelah:** Who's Denise?

**Dr Larabee:** What?

**Akeelah:** Denise, you called me Denise. Who's that? Dr. Larabee, are you okay?

**Dr Larabee:** Yes. Yes, I'm fine. Listen, I spent all last week making these for you.

**Akeelah:** What are they? - They're flash cards.

**Dr Larabee:** 5,000 new words, the types that you will run into at the finals.

**Akeelah:** 5,000? But we've only got a few months left. What, you going to coach me 24-7? - Uh, no... you're going to, um, learn these on your own. There's nothing left for me to teach you.



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### Part 13 : Coaches and Derrick T

**Woman:** 'Gabbro,' a group of dark heavy rocks.

**Akeelah:** Can you spell it for me?

**Woman:** G-A-B-R-O,

**Akeelah:** gabbro? Actually it's got two Bs.

You know, Akeelah, you ain't short on people who want to help you.

I bet if you just look around, you got 50,000 coaches.

Starting with me.

**Akeelah:-** Mama? - Hmm?

**Akeelah:**You think that maybe you might go back to college?

I just might.

**Akeelah:** I love you. - I love you too.

'Craquelure,' C-R-A-Q-U-E-L-U--

**Terrence:** So how you spell all these words anyway?

**Akeelah:** I study them.

**Terrence:** Whatever. There goes my ride. Hey, what up, Derrick-T?

**Derrick-T** What's up, Terrence? Who's that?

**Terrence:** That isn't anybody, just my little sister.

**Derrick-T** What up, little thing? I been seeing you on TV. Trying to win some big contest, huh?

**Terrence:** Answer the man.

**Derrick-T** You know, I won something once... fifth grade. I wrote a poem. Even got myself a blue ribbon too.

**Terrence:** Yeah, good. You wrote yourself a poem.

**Derrick-T** Shut up, dog. What you think rap is? What's that in your hand?

**Terrence:** It's nothing, just some stupid word.

**Derrick-T** You helping her?

**Terrence:** Naw, man, I'm chilling with you, right?

**Derrick-T** Naw, man. Stay here and help your sis.

**Terrence:** Why?

**Derrick-T** Because I say so. Let's break out, man.

**Akeelah:** Derrick-T!

**Derrick-T** What's up?

**Akeelah:** I want to read your poem.

**Derrick-T** After you win the contest. Let's go, man



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**Part 14: Georgia is going to take the plane** busy: occupée \* give up: laisser tomber have fun: amuse-toi \* flight attendant: hotesse de l'air \* plane: avion \* will + verbe: pour

parler au futur

**Akeelah** Hey. **Georgia** Hi.

**Akeelah** I'm off to DC tomorrow.

**Georgia** Yeah, well, have fun.

**Akeelah**- I'm sorry I've been so busy. It's just this whole spelling thing's been real intense.

But you know what? I'd give it all up if it meant you and me could hang again.

**Georgia** That's stupid.

**Akeelah** Why's it stupid?

**Georgia** Because people want to see you do good. I want to see you do good.

**Akeelah** You know what? Georgia, you're my best friend. And you always tell me I can do things even when I think I can't. But I've got to tell you something. If you want to be a flight attendant, you first gotta ride on a plane.

**Georgia** I will someday.

**Akeelah** How about tomorrow?

**Georgia** Whoo! Girl, I got-- I got to talk to the captain. Oh, forget flight attendant. I'm going to be a pilot.



**Part 14: Georgia is going to take the plane** busy: occupée \* give up: laisser tomber have fun: amuse-toi \* flight attendant: hotesse de l'air \* plane: avion \* will + verbe: pour

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**Akeelah** Why's it stupid?

**Georgia** Because people want to see you do good. I want to see you do good.

**Akeelah** You know what? Georgia, you're my best friend. And you always tell me I can do things even when I think I can't. But I've got to tell you something. If you want to be a flight attendant, you first gotta ride on a plane.

**Georgia** I will someday.

**Akeelah** How about tomorrow?

**Georgia** Whoo! Girl, I got-- I got to talk to the captain. Oh, forget flight attendant. I'm going to be a pilot.



**Part 14: Georgia is going to take the plane** busy: occupée \* give up: laisser tomber have fun: amuse-toi \* flight attendant: hotesse de l'air \* plane: avion \* will + verbe: pour

parler au futur

**Akeelah** Hey. **Georgia** Hi.

**Akeelah** I'm off to DC tomorrow.

**Georgia** Yeah, well, have fun.

**Akeelah**- I'm sorry I've been so busy. It's just this whole spelling thing's been real intense.

But you know what? I'd give it all up if it meant you and me could hang again.

**Georgia** That's stupid.

**Akeelah** Why's it stupid?

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**Part 15: at the hotel before the competition** Akeelah is in a hotel room with Javier and Georgia. They are drinking soda and watching movies. Akeelah goes to see Dylan and his dad in their room to invite Dylan to their party.

**Akeelah:** I told you not to shake it. - I'm sorry.

**Akeelah's mum:** Akeelah, I thought you guys were supposed to be studying.

**Akeelah:** We are. **Akeelah's mum:**Huh-uh, it sounds like a party in here. Come on, you got a big day tomorrow. Better call it a night. **Akeelah:** Half an hour more.

**Akeelah's mum:** 15 minutes.

**Akeelah:** What do you think Dylan's doing now?

**Javier:** Trying to learn ancient Greek.

**Akeelah:** Maybe we should invite him over. **Javier:** That turd-juggler? Forget it.

**Akeelah** I'll be back.

**Mr Watanabe-** Yeah-- **-Akeelah** Is Dylan here?

**Mr Watanabe** He's busy. **Akeelah** Well, um...me and some of the other kids are hanging out in my room, drinking soda pop and watching movies. We thought maybe he'd like to come over.

**Mr Watanabe** I'm sorry, but tomorrow is the spelling bee.

**Akeelah** Well, you know, sometimes it's okay to take a little rest right before the big event, you know?

**Mr Watanabe** Well, perhaps that is your strategy, but not ours.

**Akeelah** Wait wait! This is for Dylan. **Mr Watanabe** Okay.



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**Part 16: The final competition** Akeelah is at the national bee competition. She is finding it hard to spell a word but she uses her special trick to remember the spelling. There is a lot of stress during the competition. Everybody in her city is watching the show on TV!

**Woman:** If you're just joining us, we're here in the eighth round of the national spelling bee with only 30 spellers remaining.

**Woman:** "Argillaceous."

**Akeelah:** Excuse me? **Woman** Argillaceous.

**Akeelah:** Can I have the definition please?

**Woman** Argillaceous means of, relating to, or containing clay or clay minerals.

**Akeelah:** May I have the language of origin? **Woman** Latin.

**Terrence**(in front of TV)Man, that's a white word if I ever heard one. It's a trick-- stop playing.

**Woman:** It's the suffix that would trip up most people. They would tend to spell it T-l-O-U-S, or C-l-O-U-S.

**Akeelah:** Is it derived from the Latin word argilla, meaning clay?

**Man:** That's correct.

**Akeelah:**A-R-G-- l-L-- L-A...

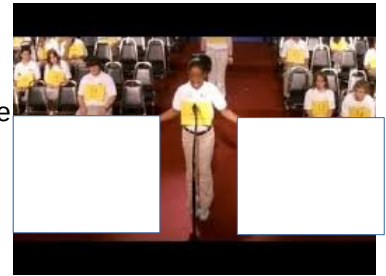
**Dr Larabee:** Come on.

**Akeelah** Can I start over? - **Woman:**You may. But you cannot change the letters you've already spelled.

**Akeelah** A-R-G-l-L-L- A-C-E-O-U-S, - argillaceous. That's correct.

**Terrence:** She got it! That's my little sister!

**Man:** Well, it's the 12th round, folks with only five spellers.



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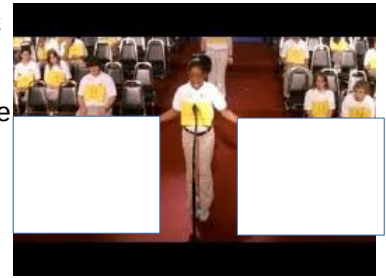
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