

Name:

Day One

Colorism

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Do some people rate others based on their skin tone? Read silently.

Marie is a good-looking adult. But she remembers wanting to look different.

“I can remember being in the bathtub as a child. I asked my mom to put bleach in the water so that my skin would be lighter. I felt not as beautiful, as acceptable, as lovable.”

Kids used to say a slam to another dark-skinned woman: “You stayed in the oven too long.”

A young Black man tells his friends, “I only date light girls.”

Why do people devalue dark skin? A movie called *Dark Girls* helped people talk about colorism. Colorism is the belief that for people of color, being lighter is better.

The movie shows singer Beyoncé in a makeup ad. Next to the ad is a photo of Beyoncé. It’s clear that the ad makers changed Beyoncé’s skin color. Why does a beautiful woman have to be lighter to sell makeup?

Colorism starts very early. *Dark Girls* replays a CNN video of African American children. An adult shows the children pictures of little girls. “Who is the pretty one?” the adult asks. “Who is the smart one?” The children scan the pictures, thinking. Both times, the children point to the picture of a light-skinned girl.

Dark Girls tries to spark talk about colorism. The movie ends with an upbeat message. Women who like their looks repeat, “Dark is beautiful.”

Source: *Dark Girls* (2011), Urban Entertainment/Duke Media.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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67

A young Black man tells his friends, “I only date light girls.” 79

Why do people devalue dark skin? A movie called *Dark Girls* helped people talk about colorism. Colorism is the belief that for people of color, being lighter is better. 93
108

The movie shows singer Beyoncé in a makeup ad. Next to the ad is a photo of Beyoncé. It’s clear that the ad makers changed Beyoncé’s skin color. Why does a beautiful woman have to be lighter to sell makeup? 125
139
148

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176
191
203

Dark Girls tries to spark talk about colorism. The movie ends with an upbeat message. Women who like their looks repeat, “Dark is beautiful.” 217
227

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What is colorism?

What did ad makers do to Beyoncé’s picture to sell makeup?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Marie is a good-looking adult. // But she remembers wanting to look different. //

"I can remember being in the bathtub as a child. // I asked my mom to put bleach in the water so that my skin would be lighter. // I felt not as beautiful, / as acceptable, / as lovable." //

Kids used to say a slam to another dark-skinned woman: / "You stayed in the oven too long." //

A young Black man tells his friends, / "I only date light girls." //

Why do people devalue dark skin? // A movie called *Dark Girls* / helped people talk about colorism. // Colorism is the belief that for people of color, / being lighter is better. //

The movie shows singer Beyoncé in a makeup ad. // Next to the ad is a photo of Beyoncé. // It's clear that the ad makers changed Beyoncé's skin color. // Why does a beautiful woman have to be lighter to sell makeup? //

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I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.