

# Introduction: Key Concepts

## Definition Map

Study the **Definition Map** for *prejudice*. Write a sentence using the word *prejudice*.

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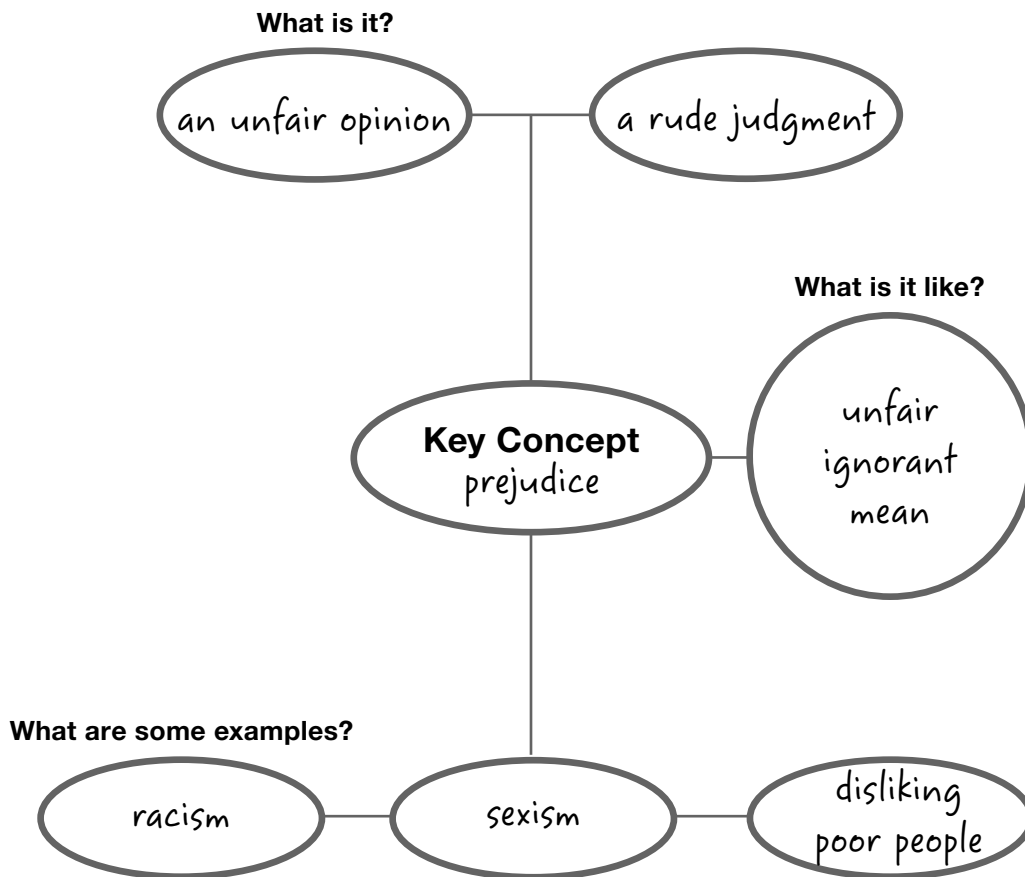


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### Key Concepts

encourage  
 express  
 participate  
 prejudice  
 unique

## Definition Map



On a separate sheet of paper, create a similar **Definition Map** for each of the **Key Concept** words. Write a sentence for each one.

## Respond to Pages 11-45

1. **Personal Response** Although the students share poetry, some of them also express their feelings in other ways. Tyrone raps. Raul paints. How do you express yourself? Why?

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2. **Major Character** What makes Tyrone the main character? Use the word *participate* in your response.

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3. **Paraphrase** What does Chankara mean on page 20 when she says about Johnny, “. . . I looked in his eyes and saw my sister’s reflection”?

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4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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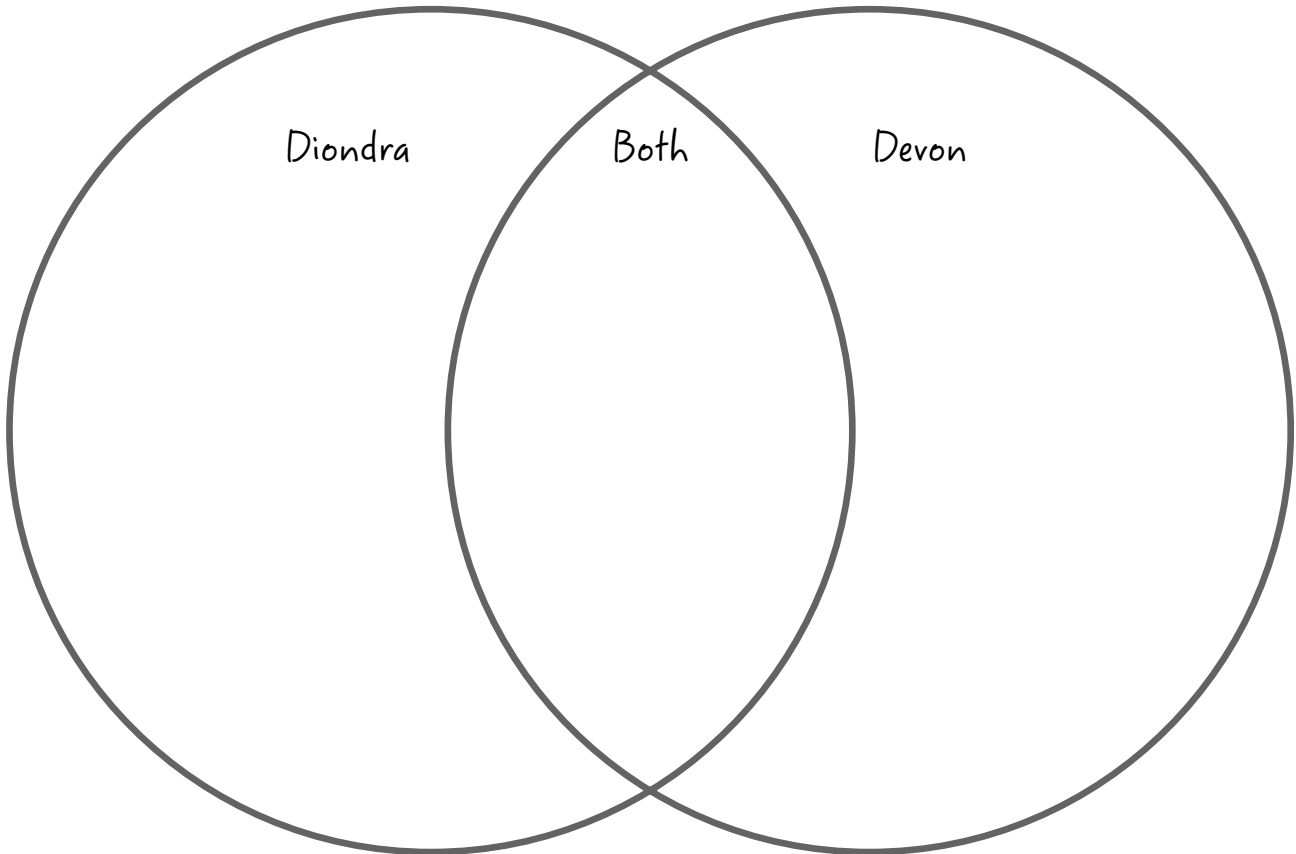
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**Respond to Pages 11-45,** continued

5. **Irony** Think about Diondra’s and Devon’s feelings, interests, actions, and poetry. List their main characteristics in the **Venn Diagram**.

**Venn Diagram**



What is ironic about the similarities between Diondra and Devon? How might a friendship between the two of them make their lives better?

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## Respond to Pages 46–85

1. **Personal Response** Gloria feels overwhelmed with the responsibilities of raising a child and going to school. What responsibilities do you think teenagers your age should take on? Why?

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2. **Character's Point of View** Reread page 53. How does Janelle describe Open Mike Friday? How does reading her poem make her feel? Use the word *express* in your response.

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3. **Paraphrase** What does Leslie mean on page 58 when she says, “Dead is dead, and lonely is lonely, and they both stink”?

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4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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**Respond to Pages 46–85,** continued

**5. Personal Experience** Two themes in the students' poetry are loneliness and insecurity about appearance. Write the feelings Janelle, Leslie, Judianne and Lupe express about these topics in the **T Chart**.

**T Chart**

<i>Insecurity About Appearance</i>	<i>Loneliness</i>

Think about what the characters are feeling. Can you relate to any of the issues expressed in their poetry? How do you deal with these feelings?

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## Respond to Pages 86–123

1. **Personal Response** Sheila wants to be called by a different name because she thinks it will better express who she is. If you could change your name, would you? Why or why not?

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2. **Conflict** Reread pages 86–87. Mike is prejudiced against people who like to read for fun. How does Mike’s attitude affect Devon? Use the word *prejudice* in your response.

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3. **Opinion** Raul tells Steve, “If a dream is in your heart, you never lose it.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

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4. **Generate Questions** Write a question about this section for someone else reading this book. Exchange questions with them. Do you agree with their answer?

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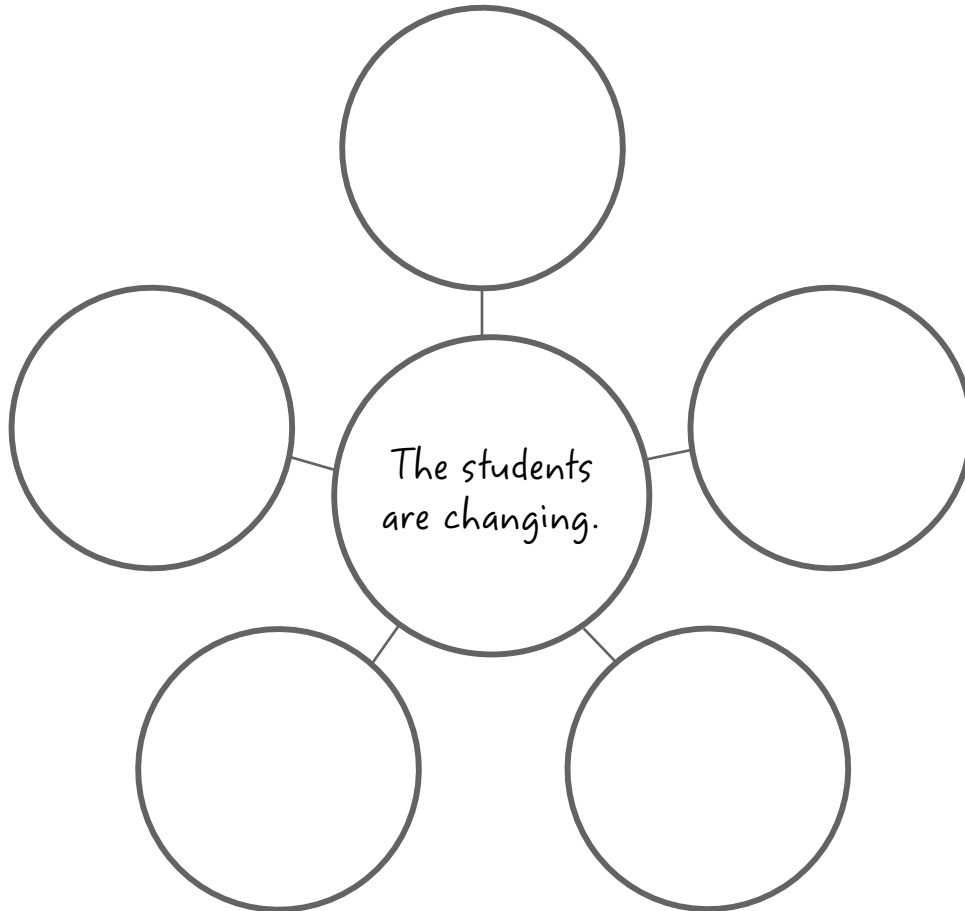
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**Respond to Pages 86–123,** continued

**5. Character** The students are changing because of Open Mike Fridays.  
List how they are changing in the **Details Web**.

**Details Web**



What has each character gained from participating in Open Mike Fridays?

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