



After The Show...

Use these prompts and discussion questions to continue examining the story of Cassius Clay after you watch the production!

Oppression in *And In This Corner: Cassius Clay*

Cassius gets fed up with Corky bullying the neighborhood and makes the choice to stand up to him. His choices become even harder when he has to stand up to racism. Both Racism and Bullying are forms of *Oppression*. *Oppression* is when one person or group uses their power to keep another person or group down. It is important to recognize and identify oppressive behavior when you see it. Here are some of the roles people play in situations of oppression:

- **Perpetrator:** Someone who commits an act of oppression.
- **Collaborator:** Someone who sees the act of oppression and chooses to make the situation worse. This can be something as simple as laughing at what the perpetrator says or does.
- **Target:** Someone who is oppressed by the Perpetrator.
- **Bystander/Witness:** Someone who sees the act of oppression and chooses to ignore it or do nothing.
- **Upstander (Rescuer/Ally):** Someone who sees the act of oppression and chooses to make the situation better. This can be as simple as comforting the Target or reporting the incident.

Activities for Students

- Download the [ReThink app](#). Developed by 15 year old, Trisha Prabhu, this app helps you reduce cyberbullying and protect yourself online.
- Get your entire school to participate each year in “[No Name-Calling Week](#).”
- Muhammad Ali came up with a tagline to describe his boxing style and personality. “Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee.” Come up with your own tagline to describe yourself.
- Boxing robes sometimes have elaborate designs. Design a logo for your own boxing championship robe.
- Cassius writes to his mother Odessa when he travels to Rome for the Olympics. Imagine you are flying by yourself to that one place in the world you’ve always wanted to visit. Write a letter home describing your adventures.

“Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything.” – Muhammad Ali



Discussion Questions

- What would have happened if Cassius never ran into Joe Martin and “whupped” the people who stole his bike?
- Muhammad Ali, often referred to as “The Greatest of all time” began as teenage Cassius Clay. What made him so great? What does it take to become “Great”?
- How does the death of Emmett Till affect Cassius and his family? Has national news ever had a profound impact on you? How so?
- What makes Cassius stand up to Corky Baker? Have you ever stood up for what you believed in? What gave you the courage?
- Why did Cassius stay in school, when all he wanted to do was box?
- Some words have a lot of power and are used to oppress others and make them feel worthless. What words have you heard that hold that power? Why do people use them?
- In what ways are Cassius and Eddie similar? How are they different?
- Cassius is disappointed when he meets his hero Sugar Ray Robinson, but that meeting inspires him to become a hero himself. Who are your heroes? How do you think you would respond if they disappointed you?
- Cassius is able to overcome his fear of flying to go to the Olympics. What fears have you already faced? How did you do it?
- Cassius and Rudy aren’t allowed to eat in the “white only” diner. How would you respond if you were excluded from something that your friends were allowed to do?
- Why do you think people still talk about Muhammad Ali?