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My Name is Keisha



Short story based on “Shola’s Voice”

We Speak NYC • Season 3

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My Name is Keisha



**Local
Voices**

Keisha Khan
Host

My name is Keisha.

I am from Trinidad and Tobago.

I live in the Bronx.

I work for a community TV station.

I am the host of a show called
“Local Voices with Keisha Khan.”



On my program, I interview people from the community.

This is an election year.

I am interviewing candidates—the people running for office in the election.



My community is very diverse.

At the TV station, I work with people from all over the world.

These are some of the people—the cameraperson, the director, and a production assistant.



This is Shola.

She is the housekeeper at our TV station.

She cleans and keeps our workplace tidy.

Shola is a great employee.



Shola is married.

This is her husband.

His name is Deji.

Deji is a manager at a restaurant.



Shola and Deji have a son.

His name is Tobi.

Tobi is 10 years old.

He loves to learn, but he doesn't want
to go to school.

I will tell you more about that later.



Shola has a sister, Eri.

Eri is staying with Shola.

She had to leave her apartment.

It has peeling lead paint and needs
to be fixed.



This is Derin Korkmaz.

She is a candidate for City Council.

I am going to interview Derin.



Derin is in the waiting room.

She is preparing for the interview.

Her assistant is helping her.

His name is Shinji.



Derin is a little nervous.

Shinji offers her some coffee.

Oops! Derin spills coffee on her blouse.

What can she do?



Shola offers Derin a blouse to wear.

It is a beautiful blue blouse with pictures of dragonflies.

Derin and Shinji are very grateful.



In the interview, I ask Derin,
“Why are you running for City Council?”

Derin explains what the City Council does.

She says, “The City Council passes bills that can improve the quality of life of our families, our friend, our whole community.”



Derin talks about important issues—
jobs and job training, affordable
housing, day care, playgrounds
for children.



Derin also talks about different ways of voting.

She talks about early voting and voting by mail.



I also interview a candidate named Ken Song.

Ken is also running for City Council.

He explains ranked-choice voting.



With ranked-choice voting, you can choose more than one candidate.

Who do you like the most? That is your first choice.

Who do you like after that? That is your second choice.

You can choose up to five candidates.



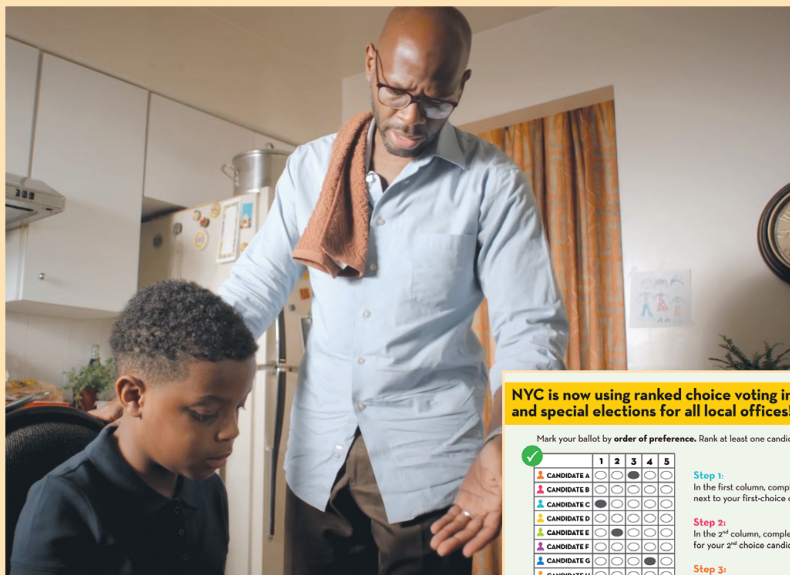
Today, Tobi is visiting the studio.

He watches my interview with Ken.

He is very curious about ranked-choice voting.

His mother is sitting next to him.

Tobi is practicing ranked-choice voting on a piece of paper.



NYC is now using ranked choice voting in primary and special elections for all local offices!

Mark your ballot by **order of preference**. Rank at least one candidate and up to five.

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE B	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE C	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE D	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE E	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE F	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE G	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE H	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE I	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
CANDIDATE J	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Step 1:

In the first column, completely fill in the oval next to your first-choice candidate.

Step 2:

In the 2nd column, completely fill in the oval for your 2nd choice candidate

Step 3:

Fill out your 3rd, 4th and 5th choice.

Do not rank a candidate more than once.
Ranking more than one candidate will not harm your first choice.



The next day, Tobi teaches his father about ranked-choice voting.

Tobi says with ranked-choice voting, “you don’t put all your eggs in one basket.”

It means you have more chances of someone you like winning the election.



Tobi's father is preparing breakfast for Tobi, but Tobi doesn't want to go to school today.

He was bullied at school.

The bully said bad things about Tobi and his family.

The bully said they should go back to their country.



“What the bully said is wrong,”
Deji says to Tobi.

Deji and Shola are taking action
to solve the problem.

Deji says, “We spoke with the
teacher about it. The boy is going
to apologize.”



Shola says, “We are going to speak with the teacher again to make sure.”

“And I will be waiting for you when you come home, and I want to hear all about your day at school.”

Tobi feels better.



One day, Shola and Eri meet a campaign worker on the street.

Her name is Pina.

Pina is volunteering for Derin Korkmaz.

She also has information about registering to vote.

You have to register before you can vote.



Pina tells Shola and Eri about Derin.

Shola sees the picture of Derin.

Shola says, “I know her! I met Derin where I work. She was doing an interview.”

Pina says Derin can visit her home.



Shola tells Deji about meeting Derin at home.

Deji doesn't like the idea.

He doesn't like politics.

He says that politicians only want power.



Shola has a different idea.

She says we have the power—
the power to vote—to choose
who we want to represent us.

That is democracy.



Shola is in the studio.

She thinks she is alone.

She sits in my chair and looks at
the camera.

She starts to speak.

She gives a speech about democracy.



I am in the control room.

I am watching Shola.

She doesn't know I am here.

She doesn't know the camera is on!



When Shola is finished,
I show her the video.
Her speech is amazing.
I want to show it on my program.
I want everyone to hear Shola's voice.
But Shola is not sure.



Tobi and Eri are playing foosball.

Shola turns on the TV.

Local Voices with Keisha Khan is starting, and I have a special guest on the show.

Who do you think it is?



That's right...

It's Shola.



Deji, Tobi and Eri are shocked.

She is a special guest on *Local Voices*
with *Keisha Khan*!



Everyone watches closely and listens carefully.

Shola talks about democracy.

She talks about the power of voting.

She talks about choosing people who can solve problems, like high rent, asthma, and other issues.



Shola also talks about bullying.

She says there is a vaccine for coronavirus.

She says we also need a vaccine against hate.



Deji is nodding his head.

He is agreeing with Shola.

He is changing his mind about
democracy and the power of voting.

Everyone is moved by Shola's speech.





I am so proud to have had Shola on my program.

Words used in this story

☐ a show	☐ choice	☐ feels better
☐ a speech	☐ choose	☐ finished (finish)
☐ affordable housing	☐ City Council	☐ fixed (fix)
☐ against	☐ closely	☐ foosball
☐ agreeing with (agree with)	☐ community	☐ grateful
☐ alone	☐ community TV station	☐ hate
☐ amazing	☐ control room	☐ high rent
☐ apologize	☐ coronavirus	☐ host
☐ asthma	☐ curious	☐ housekeeper
☐ basket	☐ day care	☐ idea
☐ bills (bill)	☐ democracy	☐ improve
☐ blouse	☐ different	☐ information
☐ bullied (bully)	☐ director	☐ interview (<i>n</i>)
☐ camera	☐ diverse	☐ interview (<i>v</i>)
☐ cameraperson	☐ dragonflies (dragonfly)	☐ issues (issue)
☐ campaign worker	☐ early voting	☐ later
☐ candidates (candidate)	☐ election	☐ lead paint
☐ carefully	☐ employee	☐ local
☐ chances (chance)	☐ explains (explain)	☐ make sure
☐ changing his mind (change his mind)	☐ feels (feel)	☐ manager
	☐ better (good)	☐ married
		☐ meeting (meet)

☐ met (meet)	☐ program	☐ taking action (take action)
☐ moved by	☐ proud	☐ the most
☐ nervous	☐ quality of life	☐ tidy
☐ nodding (nod)	☐ ranked-choice voting	☐ job training
☐ not sure	☐ registering (register)	☐ up to
☐ offer	☐ represent	☐ vaccine
☐ passes (pass)	☐ restaurant	☐ visiting (visit)
☐ passes bills	☐ running for office (run for office)	☐ voices (voice)
☐ peeling (peel)	☐ says (say)	☐ volunteering (volunteer)
☐ picture	☐ said (say)	☐ voting (vote)
☐ playgrounds (playground)	☐ shocked	☐ voting by mail
☐ politicians (politician)	☐ should	☐ waiting for (wait for)
☐ politics	☐ solve the problem	☐ watching (watch)
☐ power	☐ special guest	☐ ways (way)
☐ practicing (practice)	☐ spills (spill)	☐ whole
☐ preparing for (prepare for)	☐ spoke (speak)	☐ winning (win)
☐ production assistant	☐ staying with (stay with)	☐ workplace
	☐ studio	

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