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Shola's Voice

Study Guide



SEASON 3

STUDY GUIDE CONTENTS

Title Page	Page	iii
The Story	Pages	1–26
Activities	Page	27
What You Can Do	Pages	57 & 60
Dictionary	Page	61
Answers	Page	65



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Shola's Voice

What is the meaning of democracy?



What is the power of a voice?

The Story: Shola's Voice

Shola's Voice is a drama. Dramas often have three parts.
The parts are called "acts."

Act I

Act 1 is an introduction to the characters and the action.

⋮

Act II

In **Act 2**, you learn more about the characters in Shola's Voice and the problems they are facing.
You meet new characters and situations.

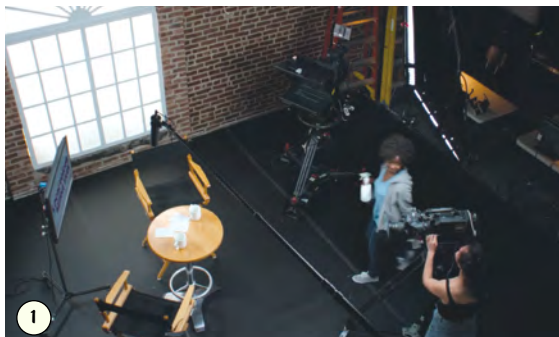
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Act III

Act 3 is the conclusion of the drama. Problems are often resolved in Act 3. In Act 3, Shola speaks to the world.
Her voice is powerful.

Local Voices with Keisha Khan

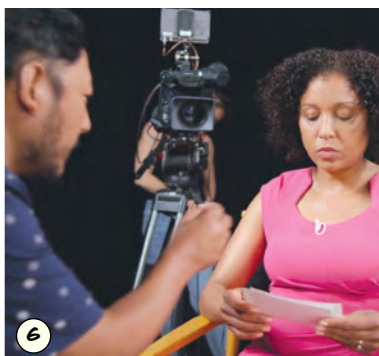
Shola is the housekeeper at a community TV station. She is cleaning the studio.



Keisha is the host of a program called *Local Voices with Keisha Khan*. Derin (in the white blouse) is in the waiting room. She will be a guest on the program. Keisha will interview Derin about important community topics.



Shola is dusting off Keisha's interview table. Keisha is getting ready to start the interview. A camera person is going to adjust Keisha's microphone.



The TV director (wearing headphones) is in the TV control room.
She's ready to start recording.

ON
AIR



Keisha begins her program with a little history.
Derin and her assistant, Shinji, are listening to Keisha
on the TV in the waiting room.

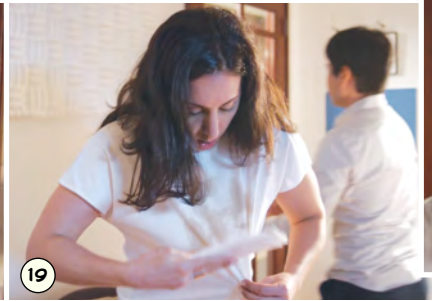
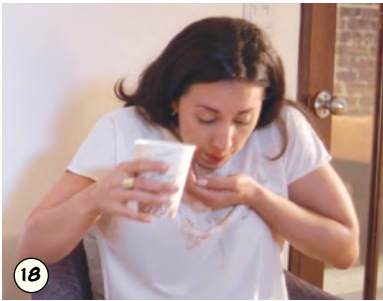
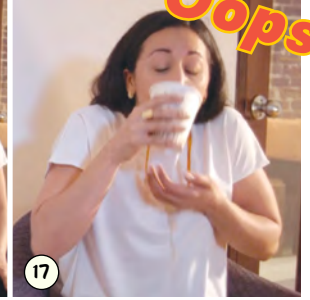


On the show, Keisha shows pictures of the historic events she is talking about.



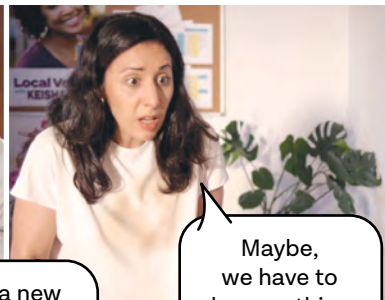
The Accident

Derin is waiting to go to the studio for the interview.
Shinji offers Derin a cup of coffee. Oops!



Excuse me,
I need your help.

Shola arrives and offers help.



The Blouse

Shola offers her blouse to Derin. Derin loves it. She is so grateful.



Keisha continues the opening of her show. She is talking to the camera.
Derin enters the studio. Look what she is wearing!



The Interview Begins

Derin explains why she is running for City Council. Shola listens.



The Interview Continues

Derin talks about important issues. Shola is impressed.



33

As a member of City Council, I will represent the needs of our diverse community.

Jobs and job training, health care clinics, affordable housing, day care, playgrounds for our children...



34

We need a strong voice for immigrant needs.

But what do you say to working people who say they don't have time to vote?

I tell them about early voting. You can vote early by mail or in person.

Keisha encourages everyone to make a plan to vote.

Shola hears her phone. She gets a text message.



35

Right. Everyone needs to make a plan to vote. The more people in our community who vote, the better it is.



36

That's right. People in power will pay attention to us if we vote.

Also, about the people who live in our community, I would like to tell you about the blouse I'm wearing...

Ding!

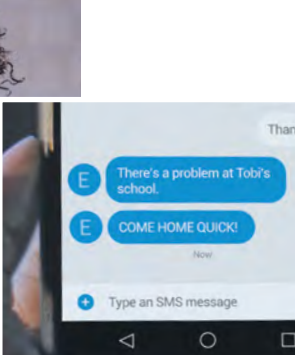
A Problem at School

There's a problem at Shola's son's school. Shola runs out.

Derin continues her interview.



37



38

There's a problem at Tobin's school.

COME HOME QUICK!

Type an SMS message

What Happens in Act I?

Local Voices with Keisha Khan

- ~~elections~~
- candidate
- problem
- spills
- by mail
- stain
- ~~community~~
- in a hurry
- housing
- blouse
- watches
- issues
- ~~interviews~~
- message
- nervous

1. Shola is the housekeeper at a community TV station. One of the programs at the station is called “Local Voices with Keisha Khan.” Keisha Khan is the host. She interviews candidates running for office in New York City elections.
2. One day, Keisha interviews a _____ for City Council named Derin Korkmaz. Derin wants to be a voice for immigrants. She is concerned about affordable _____, health care, job training and other _____.
3. Before the interview, Derin reviews her notes in a waiting room. Her assistant, Shinji, helps Derin. He gives her some coffee. But Derin is _____. She _____ the coffee on her blouse. It has a big coffee _____.
4. Shola sees the stain on Derin’s _____. She offers a beautiful blue blouse for Derin to wear.
5. The interview begins. Derin is wearing Shola’s blouse. Shola _____ the interview on a TV monitor.
6. In the interview, Derin talks about important issues. She also talks about early voting and voting _____. Shola is interested in Derin’s ideas.
7. Suddenly, Shola gets a text _____. There is a _____ at her son’s school. Shola leaves _____.

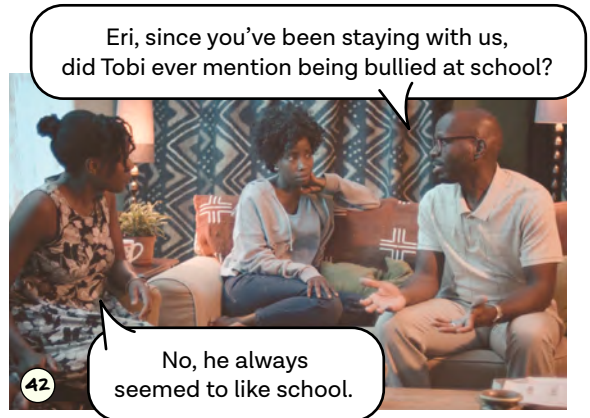


Bullied at School

It's almost midnight. Shola's son, Tobi, is asleep on Shola's lap. Shola's sister, Eri, is there. Shola's husband, Deji, arrives home from work.



Deji takes Tobi to bed. Then, they talk about the problem at school.



Shola has important information and an idea for tomorrow.



Say Hello to the World

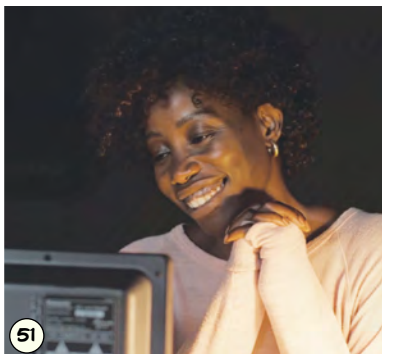
Keisha pretends that Tobi is a guest on her talk show and Tobi is a candidate running for office.



Tobi is having fun in the interview. He likes it more than school.



Shola agrees. She is in the studio watching her son. Tobi loves this experience.



Ranked-Choice Voting

Keisha is interviewing another candidate for City Council.
His name is Ken Song. Ken is explaining ranked-choice voting.



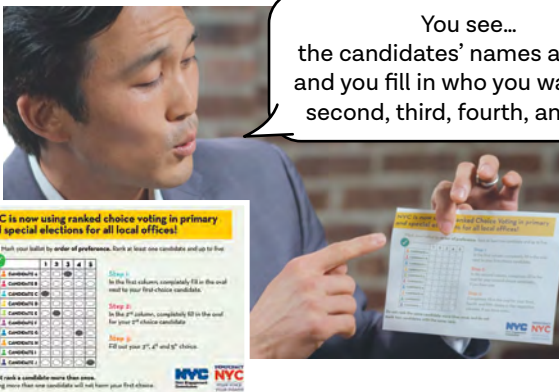
Ken, how do you explain ranked-choice voting to our audience?

In the primary election—when you choose a nominee in your party—you can choose five candidates for each position.

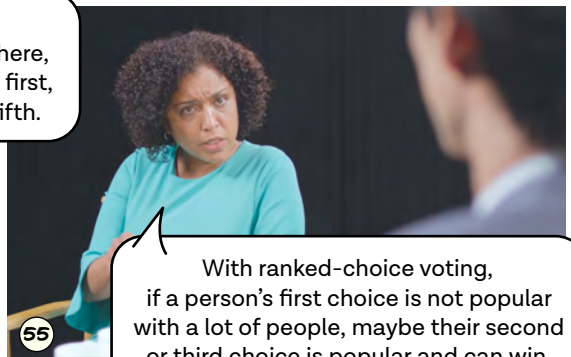
You rank your choices. Who do you like the most? That is your first choice. Who do you like after that? That is your second choice.

Let me show you. I have an example of a ballot.

Ken shows an example of a ballot. Keisha adds more information.

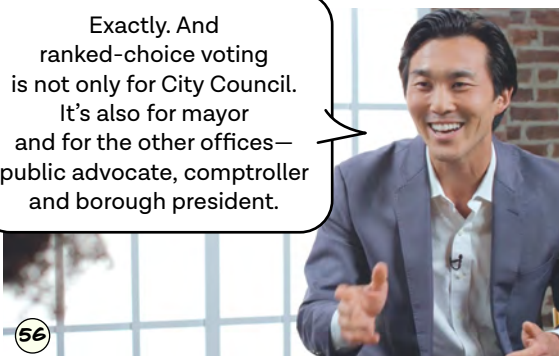


You see... the candidates' names are here, and you fill in who you want first, second, third, fourth, and fifth.



With ranked-choice voting, if a person's first choice is not popular with a lot of people, maybe their second or third choice is popular and can win.

Ken confirms Keisha's information and gives more details.
Tobi is listening carefully and taking notes.



Exactly. And ranked-choice voting is not only for City Council. It's also for mayor and for the other offices—public advocate, comptroller and borough president.



56

57

Five Mayors?!

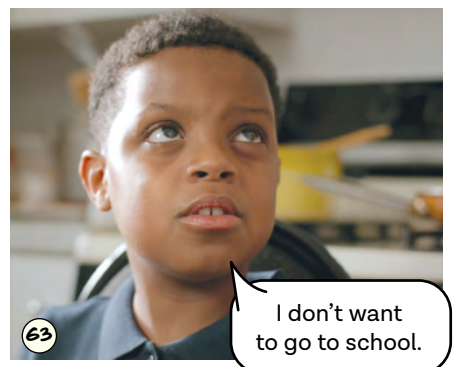
Deji doesn't know about ranked-choice voting.
Tobi explains it to his father.



Shola helps her son explain. Deji listens.



Deji is more concerned about getting his son ready for school. But...



Shola and Deji Support Their Son

Mom and Dad listen to their son.
They understand him and they give him good advice.



But, Tobi tells his parents what the bully said.
Mom and Dad have important words for Tobi.



A Meeting on the Street

Shola and Eri meet a campaign worker on the street. She tells them about registering to vote and a candidate for City Council. Look who it is!

Excuse me, are you registered to vote?

How do you register?

It's easy. You can do it online or by mail.

And here is some information about a great woman from our neighborhood running for City Council.

70

72



Shola knows her. The campaign worker says that Derin can visit Shola's home.

I know her!

Would you like me to arrange for her to come to your home?

That's great! Where did you meet her? Did you hear her speak?

I met her where I work. She was doing an interview. I didn't get to hear it all.

74

No, my home is very small.



Eri explains why she is staying with her sister. They talk about important issues. Shola and Eri read about the issues and how to register to vote.

It's even smaller because I am staying there.

Lead is a serious issue.

They're doing renovation in my building. They found lead in paint that was peeling in my apartment.

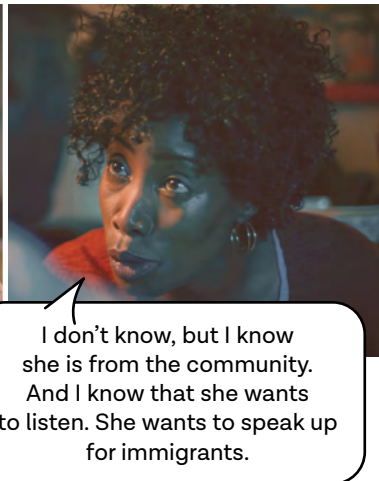
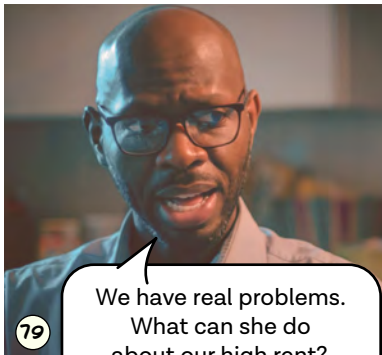
Derin wants to do something about health care and housing.

75



The Meaning of Democracy

Shola talks with Deji about meeting Derin.
Deji doesn't want to do it. Shola tries to convince him.



Shola talks about democracy and the power of voting.
Deji is not convinced.



What Happens in Act II?

Issues That Matter

- **bullied**
- **mayor**
- **taking action**
- ~~**staying**~~
- **represent**
- **ranked-choice**
- **registering**
- **City Council**
- **voting**
- **convince**
- **concerned**
- **counselor**

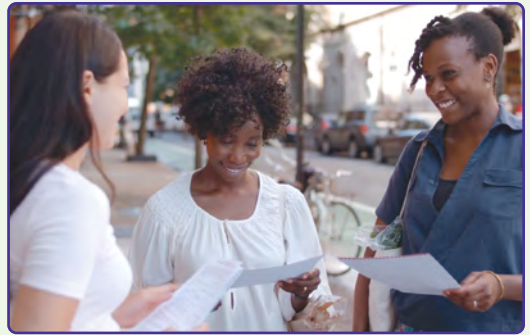
1. Shola is waiting at home for her husband, Deji. Her son, Tobi, is sleeping on her lap. Her sister, Eri, is staying with them.
2. Deji comes home and puts Tobi to bed. Then, Deji, Shola and Eri talk about the problem at Tobi's school. Tobi was _____ at school. The parent coordinator and the _____ will have a meeting about the problem.
3. Shola takes Tobi to her work. In the TV studio, Keisha pretends to interview him. Tobi introduces himself to the camera. He says he wants to be _____!
4. That afternoon, Keisha interviews another candidate for _____. His name is Ken Song. Ken talks about ranked-choice _____. Tobi watches the interview. He is very curious and excited to learn about it.



5. The next morning, Tobi tells his father about _____ voting. His father is preparing breakfast for Tobi. Tobi says he doesn't want to go to school.

6. Tobi's mother and father talk with their son about the bullying problem. They understand how he feels. They are upset too, and they are _____ to solve the problem.

7. One day, Shola and Eri are walking on the street. They meet a campaign worker. She gives them information about _____ to vote. She is volunteering for Derin Korkmaz. Shola recognizes Derin. She met Derin at the TV station. She **loaned** Derin her blouse!



8. Eri tells the campaign worker about a problem with paint that is peeling in her apartment. The paint has **lead** in it. The campaign worker listens to Eri. Derin is _____ about problems like Eri is facing, such as health care and housing. The campaign worker says that Derin can visit Shola's home to learn about their needs.

9. That night, Shola tries to _____ her husband to meet the candidate at their home. Deji doesn't like the idea. He doesn't trust politicians. Shola disagrees with Deji. Shola talks with him about democracy. In a democracy, people have the power to choose who they want to _____ them.

loaned = give something to someone for a limited time;
Shola loaned her blouse to Derin. Derin borrowed Shola's blouse.
lead = a poisonous metal

My Name Is...

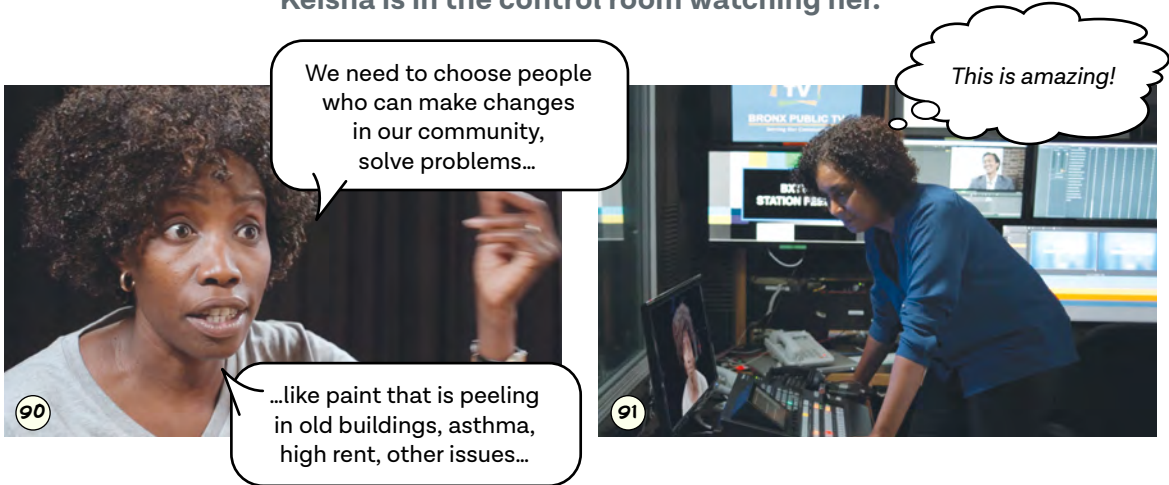
Shola is alone in the studio. She sees the camera and gets an idea.



She takes a seat in Keisha’s chair. She has important ideas on her mind.

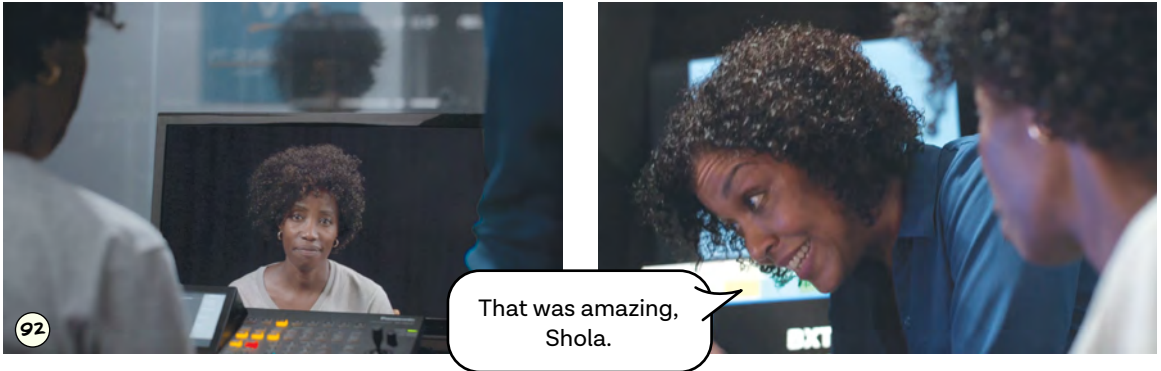


Shola continues her speech. She doesn't know that Keisha is in the control room watching her.

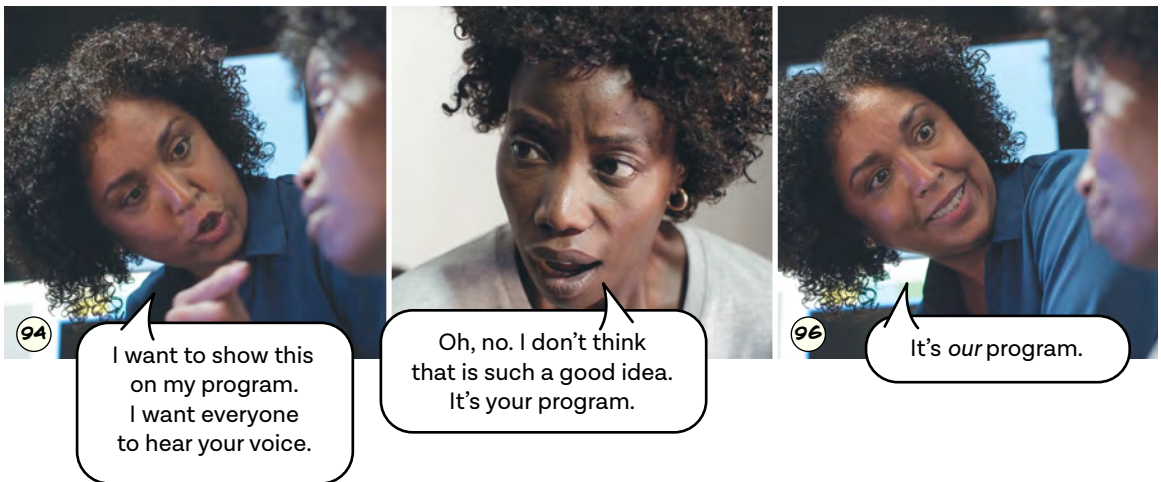


It's Our Program

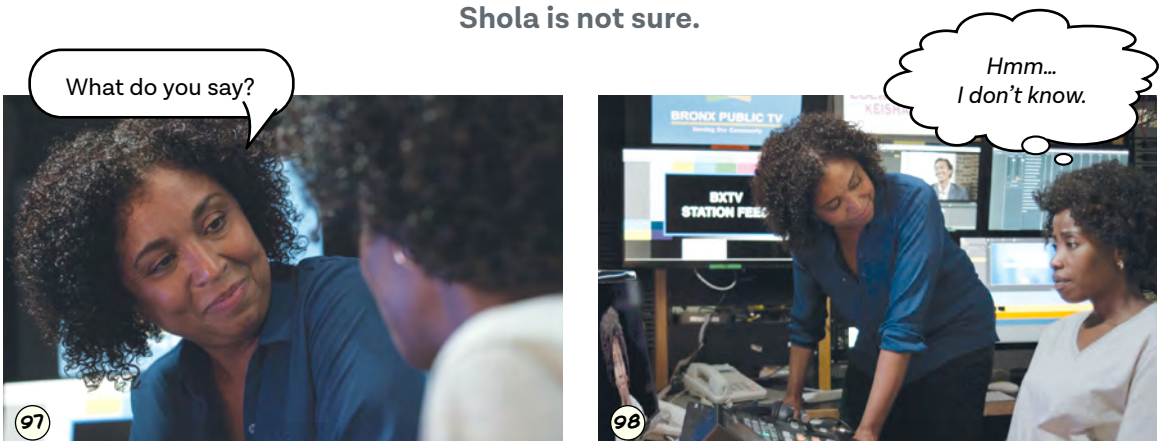
Keisha replays Shola's speech. The camera was on.
Her speech was recorded!



Keisha has an idea. She wants everyone to hear Shola's voice.



Shola is not sure.



What Do You Want to Watch?

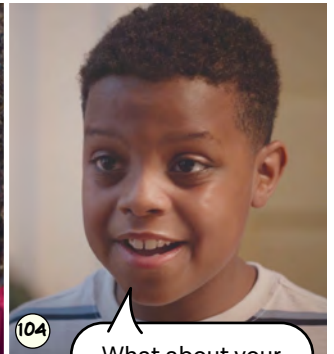
A few days later... The family is having fun at home.
They are playing foosball.



Shola enters the room.
She picks up the TV remote control and asks a question.



What do you want to watch?



What about your channel, Mama?



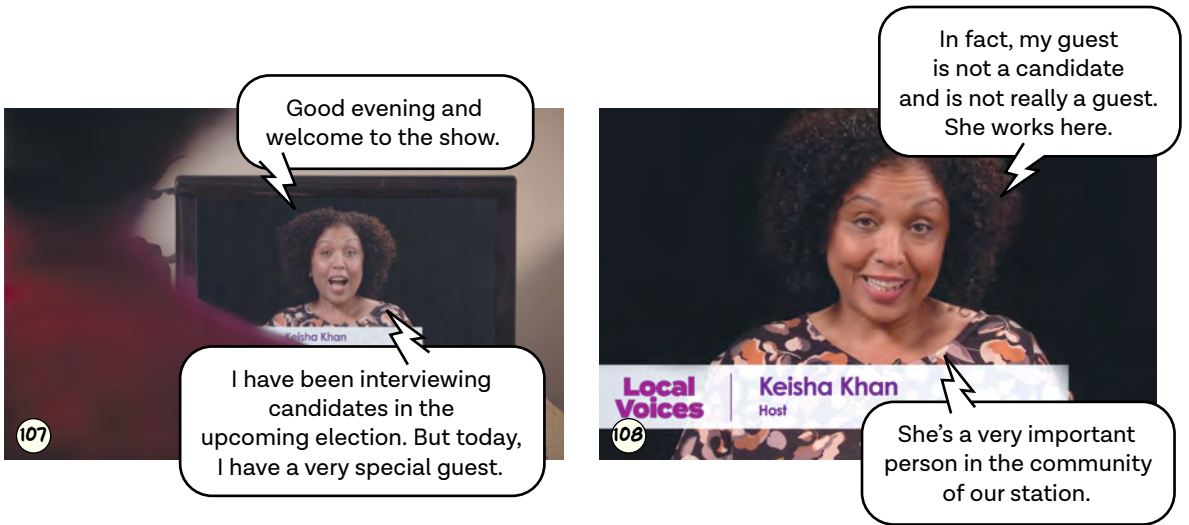
Tobi, are you sure?



Yes, let's see who Ms. Keisha is interviewing.

A Special Guest

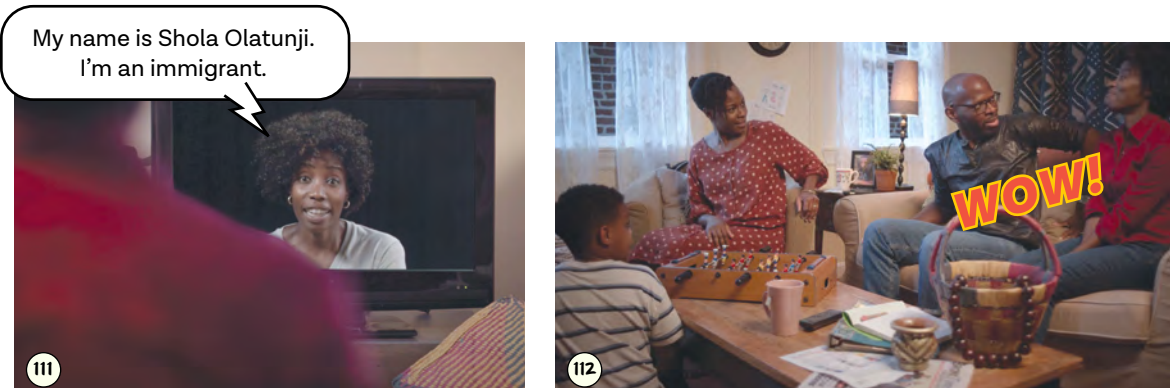
Local Voices with Keisha Khan is starting.



Deji is not excited. Keisha introduces a special guest.



Look who it is! The family is shocked.



Shola's Voice

Shola introduces herself.

She has some important things to say about democracy.



I'm not running for office. I am not trying to win your vote.

113

Local Voices | Shola Olatunji
Bronx Public Television



But I want to say, voting is important. Democracy is important.

BX 114

It gives us the power to choose our leaders.

Deji is impressed. He is full of respect for his wife. Shola continues her speech...



115



We need to choose people who can make changes in our community, solve problems...

116

...like paint that is peeling in old buildings, asthma, high rent, other issues.

Eri is captivated. Tobi is so proud of his mother. Deji is even prouder. They are very **moved**.



117



118



119

moved = very emotional

The Vaccine Against Ignorance and Hate

Shola talks about something that affected her family in a deeply hurtful way.

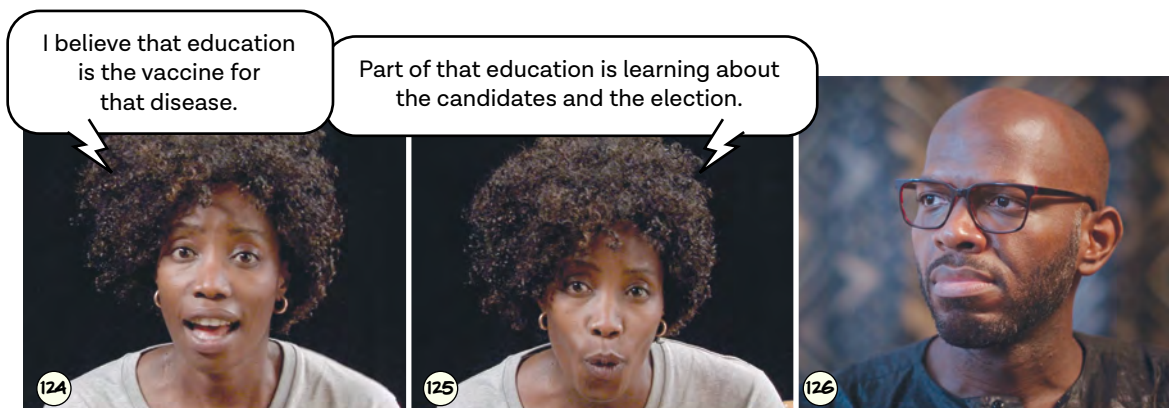


Shola talks about the need to end the spread of hate.



Education is part of the solution.

Getting involved in the democratic process is also essential.

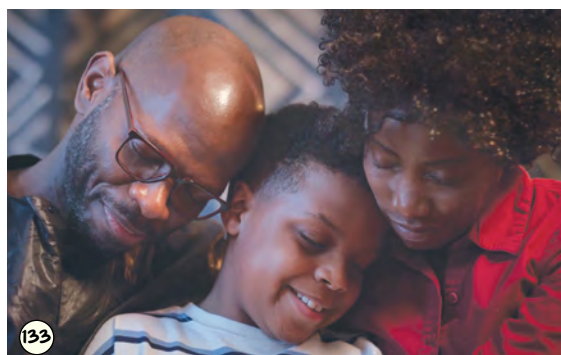
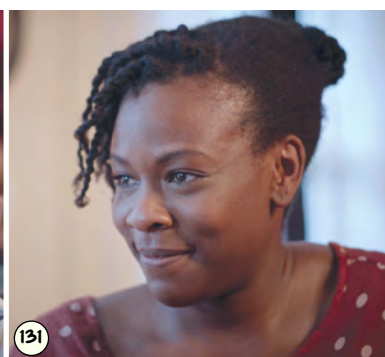


Our Home

New York City is home to people from all over the world.
Shola has a universal message. It is a vision of unity.

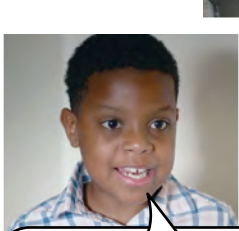


She warms everyone's heart and brings a smile to everyone's face.



The Blouse Returns

The family is getting ready for a visitor. Guess who's coming!
It's Derin Korkmaz and they have important questions to ask her.



Baba, what are you going to say to her?



I'm going to ask why she thinks I should vote for her, and what she can do to support your school.

I'm going to ask who she likes for mayor and borough president and her ideas for affordable housing and health care.

Shola enters wearing something special.
Where have you seen her blouse before?



I'm going to ask if she likes my blouse...



...and why I should vote for her.

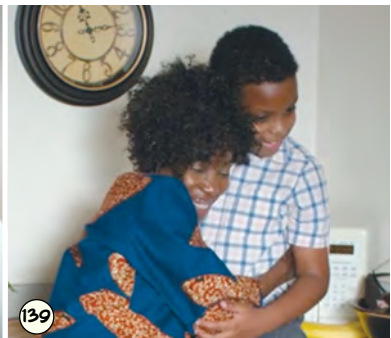
Tobi is eager to participate in democracy!



I want to vote. But I haven't decided my choices yet.



You have a little time.

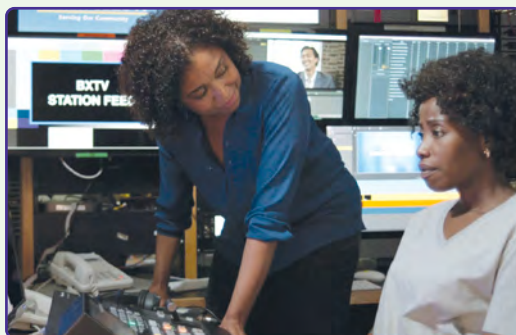


What Happens in Act III?

Shola Finds Her Voice

- vote
- shocked
- video
- speech
- program
- ~~alone~~
- ~~solve~~
- embarrassed
- vaccine
- wearing
- proud
- ~~choose~~
- questions
- education
- guest

1. Shola is alone in the studio. She sees Keisha's seat. It is empty. Shola moves toward it and sits down. She faces the camera. She **gathers her thoughts** and begins to talk. First, she introduces herself. Then, she talks about democracy and the importance of voting. She says we need to choose people who can solve problems. Shola doesn't know that the camera is on. Keisha is upstairs in the control room watching her.
2. Keisha plays the _____ for Shola. Shola watches herself. She is _____, but Keisha says that Shola's _____ is amazing. Keisha wants to play Shola's speech on her program. She asks Shola's opinion. Shola is not sure.
3. A few days later, Tobij, Deji and Eri are playing a game called *foosball* in the living room. Shola walks in and turns on the TV. She turns on Keisha's _____.
4. The program is starting. Keisha says that she has a special _____ — someone who works at the station. Guess who it is!



5. The family is _____.
The guest is Shola! Shola introduces herself. She talks about democracy. She talks about issues that matter. She says that her son was bullied at school. We need a _____ against hate, says Shola. She says that _____ is the vaccine to stop hate.



6. Everyone is **glued to the TV**. Tobi is _____ of his mother. Deji is prouder. They all hug.
7. A few days later, Deji, Tobi and Eri are talking about the election. They are preparing _____ to ask the candidate, Derin Korkmaz. Derin is coming to their home!

8. Shola enters the kitchen. She is _____ her blue blouse. It's the same blouse that Shola loaned Derin for the interview.
9. They talk about voting. Tobi wants to _____ too. Everyone smiles.



find your voice = learn how to express yourself
gather your thoughts = collect your ideas; think about what you want to say
glued to the TV = pay close attention to what is happening on TV

Who We Are

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.

Tobi • Shinji • Derin • ~~Shola~~ • Ken
Eri • Keisha • Pina • Deji



1. My name is Shola. I am a housekeeper at a community TV station. I am married and have one son. My husband's name is Deji. And my son's name is Tobi.
- I believe that democracy is important. I believe voting is important. We need to elect—to choose—people who can solve problems. It's important to pay attention to the ideas of the candidates—the people running for office. It is important to get involved and to advocate for our needs.

get involved = participate and take action
advocate = speak up for; voice your opinion in support of something



2. My name is _____. I am married to Shola. She wants me to get involved with politics. I'm not so interested, but maybe I can change. Maybe Shola can convince me with the power of her voice.

politics = activities related to government
convince = persuade; get someone to agree with you



3. **My name is** _____. I am Shola's and Deji's son. I teach my father about ranked-choice voting. I want to be mayor, but I don't want to go to school. There is a bully there. My parents are taking action.

ranked-choice voting = voting for candidates in order of preference
bully = (n) someone who is hurtful and makes you afraid; (v) to intimidate



4. **My name is** _____. I am the host of a TV program called "Local Voices with Keisha Khan" at Bronx Public TV. Bronx Public TV is a community TV station. It gives voice to my diverse community. Now is election season and I am interviewing the candidates running for office. I welcome everyone's voice on my show!

gives voice to = speaks up for, advocates for
diverse community = a community with people who have many different backgrounds and ways of life
interviewing = asking questions in a formal conversation to learn about the person

Activity 1



5. **My name is** _____. I am running for City Council. Keisha interviews me on her TV program. Keisha asks why I want to be on the City Council. The City Council passes bills that can improve the quality of life. As a member of City Council, I will represent the needs of our diverse community.

running for = seeking a political position in an election

City Council = the legislative branch of a city government ([see page 32](#))

bills = proposals for laws which are voted on in the legislature ([see page 32](#))

quality of life = your health and well-being

represent = to speak for your interests and needs



6. **My name is** _____. I am Derin's assistant. I help her schedule meetings and manage her daily routine.

schedule meetings = to arrange the time and date of meetings

daily routine = daily activities



7. **My name is** _____. I am a candidate for City Council, too. Keisha invites me on her show to talk about ranked-choice voting. I'm excited to talk about it with her.



8. **My name is** _____. I am Shola's sister. There is lead in the paint in my apartment and it is peeling. I'm staying with Shola and her family while the problem is being fixed. I am grateful for Shola's help and support.

lead = a poisonous metal



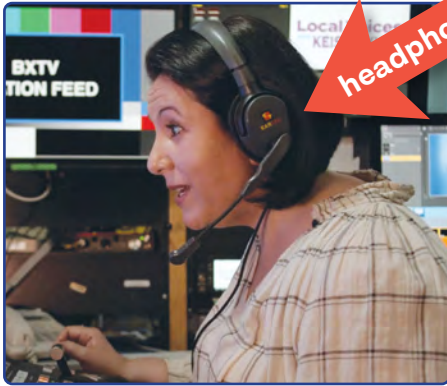
9. **My name is** _____. I am a campaign worker. I volunteer for Derin's campaign. Derin wants to be the best City Council member she can be. She cares about issues that are important to my community. I encourage people to register and to vote.

campaign worker = someone who works for a candidate to help them get elected
volunteer = to work without pay, often to help someone or a community in need
issues = topics and problems related to those topics

Where Is It?

Find these things in the story.

Write the page number(s). Follow the example.



- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. headphones | <u>pages 3, 5, 9, 10</u> |
| 2. ambulance | <u>page</u> |
| 3. American flag | <u>page</u> |
| 4. coffee stain | <u>pages</u> |
| 5. dragonfly blouse | <u>pages</u> |
| 6. text message | <u>page</u> |
| 7. campaign flyer | <u>pages</u> |
| 8. foosball game | <u>pages</u> |

Talking about City Council and Issues that Matter

Definitions I

Find the meaning. Follow the example.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1. City Council | _____ | something you can afford; have enough money for |
| 2. bill | _____ | listen carefully |
| 3. quality of life | _____ ¹ | the legislature in New York City with 51 members who propose and pass bills |
| 4. represent | _____ | cast a ballot for the candidate of your choice in an election |
| 5. affordable | _____ | voting before election day |
| 6. pay attention | _____ | health and well-being; standard of living |
| 7. early voting | _____ | act as a spokesperson for (a voice for) the people who live in your district |
| 8. vote | _____ | a proposal for a law related to health care, education, public safety or any other issue |

The **City Council** is the name of the legislature (the branch of government that makes laws) in New York City. It has 51 districts (areas). Each City Council member represents one district. Members of City Council propose and pass bills that affect the quality of life in New York City.

Talking about City Council and Issues that Matter

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



- early voting
- pay attention
- bills
- voice
- represent
- vote
- ~~City Council~~
- quality of life
- affordable

Keisha: Tell us why you are running for (1) City Council?

Derin: The City Council passes (2) _____ that can improve the (3) _____ of our families, our friends, our whole community. As a member of City Council, I will (4) _____ the needs of our diverse community. Jobs and job training, health care clinics, (5) _____ housing, day care, playgrounds for our children...

Keisha: We need a strong (6) _____ for immigrant needs. But what do you say to working people who say they don't have time to vote?

Derin: I tell them about (7) _____. You can vote early by mail or in person.

Keisha: Right. Everyone needs to make a plan to (8) _____. The more people in our community who vote, the better it is for our community.

Derin: That's right. People in power will (9) _____ to us if we vote.

Talking about Ranked-Choice Voting Definitions II

Find the meaning. Follow the example.

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|---|
| 1. audience | _____ | the chief executive in city government |
| 2. candidate | _____ | selection |
| | _____ | put in order of preference |
| 3. run for | _____ | a form you fill out in an election;
a voting form |
| 4. primary | _____ | having many supporters |
| 5. rank | _____ | seek election for a political office |
| 6. ballot | 1 _____ | the people who watch a TV show
or other performance |
| 7. choice | _____ | an election for the nominees of
a political party who will run in the
general election* |
| 8. popular | | |
| 9. mayor | _____ | a person running for a political office
(political position) |

*There are **primary elections** and **general elections**. A primary election happens before the general election.

The purpose of a primary election is to elect candidates for the political parties in the general election.

A candidate who wins a primary election is called a nominee. Nominees run against each other in the general election. The general election happens in November.

In New York City, ranked-choice voting is used in primary elections.

Talking about Ranked-Choice Voting

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



mayor • ballot • popular • running • rank
~~audience~~ • candidates • primary • choice



Keisha: Ken, how do you explain ranked-choice voting to our (1) audience ?

Ken Song: That is a good question, Keisha. In the (2) _____ election—when you choose a nominee in your party—you can choose five (3) _____ for each position. You (4) _____ your choices. Who do you like the most? That is your first choice. Who do you like after that? That is your second choice. Let me show you. I have an example of a (5) _____. You see... the candidates' names are here, and you fill in who you want first, second, third, fourth, and fifth.

Keisha: I see. So, you are (6) _____ for City Council. If you are my first choice, I put you in the number one place.

Ken: But if you like me, but I am not your first choice, you can put me as your second (7) _____. I like that, too.

Keisha: Yes, because with ranked-choice voting, if a person's first choice is not (8) _____ with a lot of people, maybe their second or third choice is popular and can win.

Ken: Exactly. And ranked-choice voting is not only for City Council. It's also for (9) _____ and for the other offices—public advocate, comptroller and borough president.

public advocate = the person in City government who oversees the work of City agencies to make sure they serve the needs of people

comptroller = the chief financial officer of a city or state

borough president = the chief executive of a borough

Talking about Democracy

Definitions III

Find the meaning. Follow the example.

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| 1. choose | _____ | raise your voice in support of something |
| 2. community | _____ | a system of government in which the leaders are chosen by the people in free elections |
| 3. speak up | _____ | expensive rent |
| 4. represent | <u>1</u> | select |
| 5. high rent | _____ | facing a problem to try to solve it |
| 6. democracy | _____ | act as a representative or a spokesperson |
| 7. dealing with | _____ | people who live in the same area or have other characteristics in common |



Talking about Democracy

Complete the sentences. Follow the example.



speak up • choose • ~~dealing with~~ • high rent • community

Deji: Meeting her at home? I don't think so.

Shola: Why not?

Deji: We have such a small space ... not enough room.

Shola: Yeah, so? That is the reality we are (1) dealing with.

Deji: Right, reality. We have real problems. What can she do about our (2) _____?

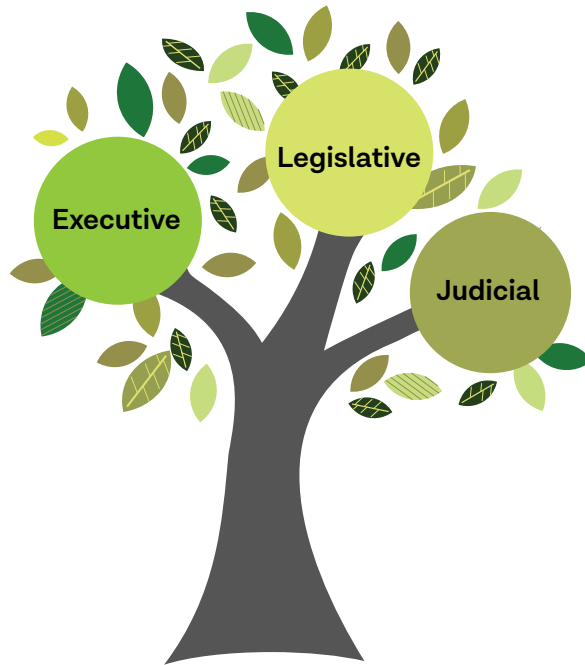
Shola: I don't know. But I know she is from the (3) _____.
And I know that she wants to listen. She wants to
(4) _____ for immigrants.

Deji: Politicians... I don't know. They just want power.

Shola: That's not true. We have power... the power to vote, to
(5) _____ who we want to represent us.
We have power over them. That is democracy.

Talking about Democracy

Branches of Government



A tree has branches. In English, we say that a government has branches, too. A democracy has three branches: executive, legislative and judicial. The branches are the same for local (town or city), state and federal (national) government.

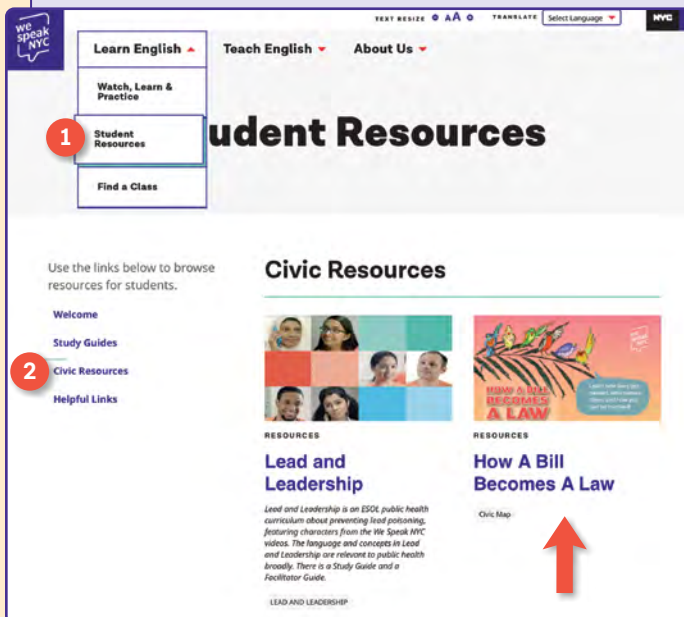
The **executive branch** has the chief executive. In a city, the chief executive is often called mayor. In a state, the chief executive is called the governor. The chief executive of the U.S. federal (national) government is called the president. The chief executive sets national goals and policies in regard to the economy, health care, education and other issues. The chief executive appoints leaders of departments or agencies that work to achieve the goals and implement these policies. If a bill is passed in the legislative branch (see below), the chief executive can sign it. If the chief executive signs it, the bill becomes a law.

The **legislative branch** is made up of representatives who propose, discuss and vote on bills related to the economy, health care, education, security and many other topics. If a bill is passed in the legislature (where the representatives work), the chief executive can sign it and the bill becomes a law. In NYC, the legislature is called City Council. In New York State, the legislature has two groups—the state assembly and the state senate. In the federal government, the legislature also has two groups—the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The **judicial branch** is the justice system. At the heart of the justice system are the courts. There are civil and criminal courts.

The three branches of government in an effective democracy check and balance each other so no branch becomes too powerful. 🌿

Visit the **Civic Maps** on the WSNYC website to learn more about the branches of government in NYC, who they are and what they do:



How A Bill Becomes A Law:
wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-A-Bill-Becomes-A-Law.pdf

How A City Government Works:
wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-A-City-Government-Works1.pdf

Talking about Democracy: Who Does What?

**Write the branch of government that does each action.
Follow the example.**

executive

legislative

judicial

- | | executive |
|--|-----------|
| 1. lead the direction of the government; create the policy for employment, health care, education, housing, security and other matters | |
| 2. propose bills | |
| 3. debate the cost and benefits of bills and vote on them | |
| 4. sign a bill that has been passed so it becomes a law | |
| 5. determine the legality of a bill passed by the legislature and signed into a law by the executive | |
| 6. appoint the leaders of departments and agencies | |
| 7. conduct criminal and civil trials with a judge and jury | |

a bill = a proposal for a law related to health care, education, public safety or any other issue

propose a bill = to present a bill in the legislature (in the City Council, for example) for debate and voting on by the representatives

debate = discuss a topic and present your opinion about it

determine the legality = to figure out if something is legal or not legal

conduct a trial = to go through the process of a trial

Good Question

Keisha Khan Interviews Derin Korkmaz

You are Keisha. You ask Derin some good questions about City Council and voting. Follow the example.



1. **You are Keisha:** Ask Derin why she is running for City Council.

Why are you running for City Council?

2. **You are Keisha:** Ask Derin what she says to encourage busy people to vote.
-

3. **You are Keisha:** Ask Derin about methods of voting.
-

4. **You are Keisha:** Ask Derin, in simple terms, how she will represent the needs of immigrants.
-

5. **You are Keisha:** Ask Derin about the source of her blouse.
-

Good Question II

Ranked-Choice Voting

You are Keisha. You ask Ken Song good questions about ranked-choice voting. Follow the example.



1. **You are Keisha:** Ask Ken to explain ranked-choice voting.

What is ranked-choice voting and how does it work?

2. **You are Keisha:** Ask Ken the number of candidates you can choose.

3. **You are Keisha:** Ask Ken what people gain from ranked-choice voting.

4. **You are Keisha:** Ask Ken when ranked-choice voting is used.

Good Question III

A Special Guest

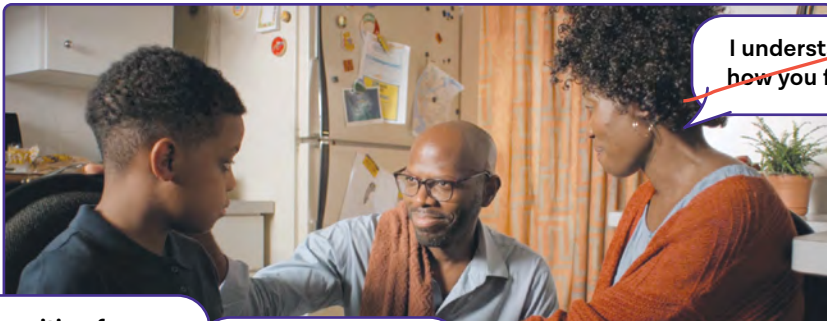
You are Shola's family. Derin comes to visit your home.
You ask her good questions. Follow the example.



1. **You are Shola:** Ask Derin to give you reasons for voting for her.
Why should I vote for you?
2. **You are Eri:** Ask Derin her thoughts about making health care affordable.
3. **You are Deji:** Ask Derin what she can do to help tenants like him with high rent.
4. **You are Eri:** Ask Derin who she wants for mayor and borough president.
5. **You are Tobi:** Ask Derin when you will be old enough to be eligible to vote.
6. **You are Eri:** Ask Derin's campaign volunteer about ways of registering to vote.
7. **You are Shola:** Ask Derin if she likes her blouse.

What Can You Say about Bullying?

You are Tobi's parents. Your son was bullied at school. You are taking action to support him, and you are letting him know that you are there for him. What can you say?



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

We are speaking with the teacher about the problem.

What he said is wrong.

You are smart and we can't let bullies stop us from learning.

~~I understand how you feel.~~

- You are Shola.** Tell your son that you understand his feelings.
I understand how you feel.
- You are Shola.** Remind your son that he is intelligent and that education is important.
- You are Deji:** Say that the bully's words are not appropriate.
- You are Deji and Shola:** Let your son know that you are taking action about the problem.
- You are Shola.** Let your son know that you will be there for him after school.

What Can You Say about Democracy?

You are Shola. You are not running for office but you have some important things you want to say about yourself and democracy.



1. **You are Shola.** Let people know that you come from another country.

I am an immigrant.

2. **You are Shola.** Tell people why voting is important.

3. **You are Shola.** Talk about the issues that are important to you.

4. **You are Shola.** Make a connection between stopping the coronavirus and the illness of racism.

What Can You Do?

Match the problem with the best solution. Follow the example.

Problem

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <u>E</u> You just became a citizen and you want to vote.</p> <p>2. ____ You want to vote but you are not sure where to do it.</p> <p>3. ____ You are afraid that you might not have time to vote on Election Day.</p> | <p>4. ____ There is a problem with bullying in your child's school.</p> <p>5. ____ You live in an old building and the paint is peeling.</p> <p>6. ____ You want to vote but you are not sure if you are eligible.</p> |
|---|--|

Solution

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A. Go to findmypollsite.vote.nyc Put in your address and zip code. This will give you the address where you can vote in person.</p> <p>B. Speak with your child's teacher, counselor, and parent coordinator. Talk with them about the problem. Ask them what they will do to solve the problem. Make a plan together to follow up. Also, go to this website to learn about ways to stop bullying and to support your child: www.stopbullying.gov</p> <p>C. Go to vote.nyc/page/voter-qualifications to learn about your eligibility to vote. If you are eligible, register and make a plan to vote. If you are not eligible, your voice is still important. Talk with your friends, your family and community members about the issues that matter to you. You can attend community meetings</p> | <p>and participate in all activities related to the well-being of your community. Your voice is important and powerful whether or not you are eligible to vote.</p> <p>D. You can vote early. Go to this website to find your early voting location: findmypollsite.vote.nyc/ You can also vote by mail with an absentee ballot. To get an absentee ballot, go to this website: nycabsentee.com</p> <p>E. Find out how to register at: www.voting.nyc. After you register, make a plan to vote.</p> <p>F. Speak with the landlord about the peeling paint. If they do not fix it, call 311 about the problem. You can file a complaint with 311, too. To learn more about lead poisoning and how to prevent it, go to: www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/health/health-topics/lead-poisoning-prevention.page</p> |
|--|--|

Watch the Show

Who Says It? (I)

Watch **Shola's Voice**. Listen carefully. Find out who says these lines.



Derin



the director



Keisha



Shinji

Who says it?

1. Any time you're ready, boss.

the director

2. I'll try.

3. As an immigrant myself, I believe we need a strong voice for immigrant needs—adult education, living wages, affordable health care.

4. I want to be a voice for immigrants.

Watch the Show

Who Says It? (II)

Watch **Shola's Voice**. Listen carefully. Find out who says these lines.

Who says it?

1. He normally tells me what he did during the day, but not the last few days.
2. That's a good question, Keisha.
3. These are my choices.
4. This way you don't put all your eggs in one basket.
5. If you put all eggs in one basket and the basket falls, all the eggs can break.
6. You can teach your class about ranked-choice voting.
7. He has asthma and the dust was awful.
8. They cause rents to go up and take public space, too.

Deji



Tobi



Eri



Keisha



Deji



Pina



Shola



Ken

Watch the Show

Who Says It? (III)

Watch **Shola's Voice**. Listen carefully. Find out who says these lines.



Deji



the
cameraperson



the production
assistant



Eri



Shola

Who says it?

1. I think she stepped out.

the production assistant
2. I'll go with you, just give me a minute.
3. I didn't know you were here.
4. I'll play the winner. Just tell me when you are finished.
5. See what happens when you don't pay attention.

Watch the Show

What's Going On?

What do you think is going on in this picture?



Watch **We Speak NYC • Shola's Voice**
to find out what is going on.

Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC

Tell the Story

This is a Word Cloud. The words in the Word Cloud are from Shola's Voice.



Word picture: www.wordle.net/

Tell the Story

Use words in the World Cloud on **page 51** to create or summarize the story of Shola's Voice.

Before you watch Shola's Voice, choose words from the Word Cloud to create a story.

In your story, include characters (people), settings (places and times) and plot (action with a problem and solution). Write your story here:

After you watch Shola's Voice, use words from the Word Cloud to write a summary or tell a friend about what happens in the video.

Words in the Cloud I

Look for words in the World Cloud (page 51) to complete this chart.

1. Find 5 (or more) names. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	2. Find 6 family words. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
3. Find 3 (or more) issues that are important for the quality of life. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	4. Find 5 political offices (positions) in NYC government. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
5. Find the part of city government that passes bills. _____	6. Find the word for a person who runs for office in an election. _____
7. Find the only borough in NYC that is on the mainland of the United States of America. _____	8. Find the method of voting when you rank your choices in order of preference. _____

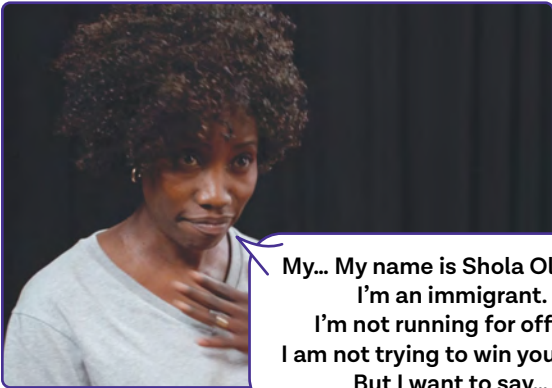
Words in the Cloud II

Find the words in the Word Cloud (page 51) to complete these sentences.



- _____ makes children feel unsafe.
- The words in her _____ were so powerful that she inspired everyone to take action.
- A _____ gives you immunity (protection) from getting an illness.
- In the _____, the candidate answered questions about her plans for affordable housing, health care and other issues.
- In a _____, people have the power to _____ their leaders and representatives.
- Ranked-choice voting is used in _____ elections in NYC.
- You need to _____ before you can vote.
- _____ voting and voting by _____ are two ways of voting if you cannot vote in person on Election Day.
- _____ is the name of an anti-racist movement for equal justice for people of African descent.
- Your _____ refers both to the sound you make when you speak and your unique point of view.

Shola’s Voice, Your Voice



My... My name is Shola Olatunji.
I’m an immigrant.
I’m not running for office.
I am not trying to win your vote.
But I want to say...

Imagine you are Shola. You are sitting in a chair in front of a TV camera during an election season. You have a rare opportunity to speak your mind to a TV audience. *What issues are affecting your life and the well-being of your family and your community? What is really important to you?*

Before you speak to the camera, brainstorm a list of the five most important changes or improvements you want to happen in your community, the country and/or the world. Here are some possible issues to talk about. *Which ones matter to you? What specific changes or improvements do you want?*

- education
- health care
- housing
- jobs and the economy
- the environment
- public safety
- community relations
- other issues

Make a list of specific changes and improvements you want to see related to these or other issues.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Shola's Voice, *Your* Voice



You are Shola. Use your notes from the previous page about issues that are important to you, and write what you want to say to the world in the space below:

What You Can Do to Learn More about Democracy and Voting

Visit www.voting.nyc to learn more about voting in New York City and New York State elections.

Get information about:

- ☒ Registering to vote
- ☒ Where to vote
- ☒ Voting early
- ☒ Voting by mail
- ☒ Ranked-choice voting
- ☒ The purpose of primary elections
- ☒ The differences between primary, general and special elections
- ☒ The candidates running for office
- ☒ Lots more



Get information and learn more about federal (national) elections here:

www.usa.gov/voting

Fair Fight is the name of an organization fighting to protect the freedom to vote. Visit the Fair Fight website to learn more:

fairfight.com



The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan (not affiliated with a political party) organization with a long history of commitment to voting rights. Do not be tricked by the name. LWV grew out of the suffrage movement (the movement for the right of women to vote) in the early 1900s, but it is not only for women! Visit The League of Women Voters to learn more about democracy and voting: www.lwv.org

From the LWV website:

“The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to register voters, provide voters with election information through voter guides as well as candidate forums and debates. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.”

HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

we
speak
NYC

The City Council passes laws. These laws affect the quality of our lives in New York City.

One example is New York City Local Law 30. This law requires New York City agencies to provide important documents in up to 10 languages.

The law also requires City agencies to offer free interpretation on the telephone in at least 100 languages.

The law helps people get important information and services! Before a law is passed, it is called a Bill.

What's a Bill?

Usually, a bill is a piece of paper that says how much money you owe for something. But, in the City Council, "bill" has a different meaning. In the City Council, a bill is an idea for a new law. The City Council Members vote on bills. If a bill passes, it can become a law.

1 Step 1. Introducing a Bill

In NYC, any City Council Member or the Public Advocate can "introduce" a bill to the Council. To introduce a bill means to propose a bill to become a law.

2 Step 2. Committee Work

The Council has committees (groups) that focus on different topics: education, health care, communication, housing, safety and others. A bill about education goes to the committee that focuses on education issues. They discuss the bill and work on it to make it better, then the bill goes to a hearing for discussion by the public.

3 Step 3. Public Hearings

A public hearing is a meeting of people who are interested in a bill. Anyone can go to a public hearing. In a public hearing, you can give your opinion and make suggestions for a bill. Bills can change after people give their opinions in a public hearing.

4 Step 4. Voting

Next, the Council Members vote on the bill. Each Council Member can vote yes or no to the bill. If the majority (50 percent or more) vote yes, the bill can become a law.

5 Step 5. The Mayor's Decision

Wait! If a bill passes in the City Council, it is not a law yet! The Mayor has to sign the bill first. If the Mayor approves the bill, he signs it and it becomes a law. But if the Mayor decides not to sign it, he vetoes it. That means he rejects it.

6 Step 6. A Vetoes Bill

Hold on! If the Mayor vetoes a bill, the bill can still become a law! After a veto, the bill goes back to the City Council and the Council Members vote again.

7 Step 7. The Bill Becomes a Law!

After a veto, if 66 percent or more of the City Council Members vote yes, the bill becomes a law.

<https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-A-Bill-Becomes-A-Law.pdf>

HOW A CITY GOVERNMENT WORKS

we
speak
NYC

We are **members of the City Council**. There are 51 Council members, one for each district in the city. We represent the people who live in our Districts.

We make the laws of the City and approve the City Budget. We each have an office in our home District. The whole City Council meets as a group at City Hall in Manhattan.

We are elected every four years, without term limits.

I am the **Mayor**. I lead the City. I make policies and programs to benefit everyone. I propose the City budget. I make sure the City government is effective and stable. I am elected for four years.

I'm the **Public Advocate**. My job is to advocate for, or support, the needs of the whole City. I propose bills, but I do not vote on them. I am elected every four years.

City Hall

Municipal Building

I am the **Comptroller**. I am the elected official in charge of City finances, and I manage the accounts of the whole City. I am elected every four years.

MANHATTAN

THE BRONX

Every borough has a **District Attorney**. We lead the investigation of crimes in each of our boroughs.

Every borough has a **Borough President**. We work with the Mayor and City officials to improve the quality of life in the boroughs. We are elected every four years.

BROOKLYN

QUEENS

Every Borough has a **Borough Hall**. This is where the Borough President has their office.

STATEN ISLAND

There are 59 **Community Boards**, and each board has 50 members. Any New Yorker who lives in the community board area is eligible to be on the Community Board.

Birds migrate (move homes) like people do. They migrate here from all over the world, like New Yorkers! We are like the beautiful birds on these maps.

NYC
Mayor's Office of
Immigrant Affairs

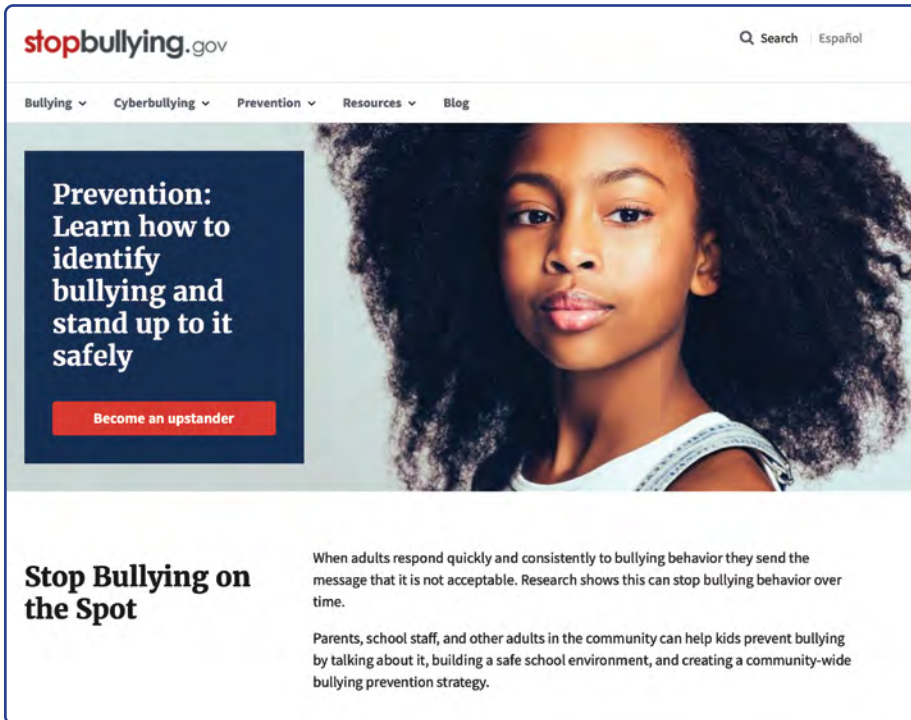
STUDIO
RE-UP

<https://wespeaknyc.cityofnewyork.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/How-A-City-Government-Works1.pdf>

What You Can Do to Prevent and Respond to Bullying

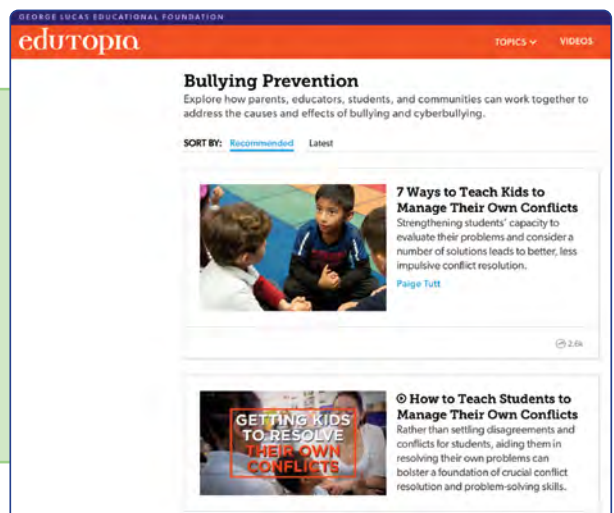
Visit these websites to learn about
preventing and responding to bullying:

www.stopbullying.gov



For teachers:

Visit edutopia.org to find resources on bullying prevention and topics related to social-emotional learning and innovative practices in education.



Dictionary: Translations of Key Words

English	Español	中文
1. affordable housing	vivienda económica	经济适用房
2. bullying	acoso / bullying	欺凌
3. candidate	candidato	候选人
4. choose, choice	escoger, elección	选择、选项
5. City Council	Concejo de la Ciudad	市议会
6. democracy	democracia	民主
7. health care	atención médica	医疗保健
8. issues	asuntos / problemas	议题
9. living wages	salarios dignos	维持生活工资
10. primary election/ general election	elección primaria/ elección general	初选／大选
11. ranked-choice voting	votación por orden de preferencia	排名选择投票制
12. represent	representar	代表

Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC to learn more.

العربية	اردو	Русский
إسكان ميسور التكلفة	کفایتی رہائش	доступное жилье
تنمر	براساں کرنا	травля
مرشح	امیدوار	кандидат
اختار، اختیار	منتخب کریں، پسند	выбирать, выбор
مجلس المدينة	سٹی کونسل	Городской совет
ديمقراطية	جمهوريت	демократия
رعاية صحية	نگہداشت صحت	медицинские услуги
مسائل	مسائل	вопросы
أجور معيشية	گزارے کی اجرتیں	прожиточный минимум
انتخابات تمهيدية/ انتخابات عامة	ابتدائی انتخاب/ عام انتخاب	первичные выборы/ всеобщие выборы
التصويت حسب ترتيب التفضيلات	رینکڈ چوائس ووٹنگ (پسند کی بنیاد پر درجہ بند ووٹنگ)	рейтинговое голосование
يُمثِّل	نمائندگی کرنا	представлять

Dictionary: Translations of Key Words

English	kreyòl ayisyen	français
1. affordable housing	lojman bon mache	logements abordables
2. bullying	pèsekisyon m	intimidation
3. candidate	kandida	candidat
4. choose, choice	chwazi, chwa	choisir, choix
5. City Council	Konsèy Minisipal	Conseil municipal
6. democracy	demokrasi	démocratie
7. health care	swen sante	soins de santé
8. issues	pwoblèm	questions
9. living wages	salè desan	salaires minimum vitaux
10. primary election/ general election	eleksyon primè/ eleksyon jeneral	élection primaire/ élection générale
11. ranked-choice voting	sistèm Vòt Chwa Klase	vote préférentiel
12. represent	reprézante	représenter

Go to www.nyc.gov/WeSpeakNYC to learn more.

한국어	Polski	বাংলা
저비용 주택	niedrogie mieszkania	সাশ্রয়কর আবাসন
괴롭힘	zastraszanie	উৎপীড়ন
후보	kandydat	প্রার্থী
선택, 선정	wybrać, wybór	চয়ন করুন, পছন্দ
시 의회	Rada Miasta	সিটি কাউন্সিল
민주주의	demokracja	গণতন্ত্র
의료	opieka zdrowotna	স্বাস্থ্য সেবা
이슈	problemy	বিষয়গুলি
최저 생활 임금	płace wystarczające na życie	জীবনযাপনের পারিশ্রমিক
예비 선거/총 선거	prawybory/ wybory powszechne	প্রাথমিক নির্বাচন/ সাধারণ নির্বাচন
순위 선택 투표	ordynacja preferencyjna	পছন্দের ক্রমানুসারে ভোটদান
대표	reprezentować	প্রতিনিধিত্ব করে

Answers

What Happens in Act I: Local Voices with Keisha Khan

1. community, interviews, elections
2. candidate, housing, issues
3. nervous, spills, stain
4. blouse
5. watches
6. by mail
7. message, problem, in a hurry

What Happens in Act II: Issues that Matter

1. staying
2. bullied, counselor
3. mayor
4. City Council, voting
5. ranked-choice
6. taking action
7. registering
8. concerned
9. convince, represent

What Happens in Act III: Shola Finds Her Voice

1. alone, choose, solve
2. video, embarrassed, speech
3. program
4. guest
5. shocked, vaccine, education
6. proud
7. questions
8. wearing
9. vote

Who We Are

1. Shola
2. Deji
3. Tobi
4. Keisha
5. Derin
6. Shinji
7. Ken
8. Eri
9. Pina

Where Is It?

1. pages 3, 5, 9, 10
2. page 3
3. page 3
4. pages 4, 5
5. pages 4, 5, 6, 24
6. page 6
7. pages 13, 24
8. pages 19, 20, 22

Definitions I: Talking about City Council and Issues that Matter

1. the legislature in New York City with 51 members who propose and pass bills
2. a proposal for a law related to health care, education, public safety or any other issue
3. health and well-being; standard of living
4. act as a spokesperson for (a voice for) the people who live in your district
5. something you can afford; have enough money for
6. listen carefully
7. voting before election day
8. cast a ballot for the candidate of your choice in an election

Talking about City Council and Issues that Matter

1. City Council
2. bills
3. quality of life
4. represent
5. affordable
6. voice
7. early voting
8. vote
9. pay attention

Definitions II: Talking about

Ranked-Choice Voting

1. the people who watch a TV show or other performance
2. a person running for a political office (political position)
3. seek election for a political office
4. an election for the nominees of a political party who will run in the general election
5. put in order of preference
6. a form you fill out in an election; a voting form
7. selection
8. having many supporters
9. the chief executive in city government

Talking about Ranked-Choice Voting

1. audience
2. primary
3. candidates
4. rank
5. ballot
6. running
7. choice
8. popular
9. mayor

Definitions III: Talking about Democracy

1. select
2. people who live in the same area or have other characteristics in common
3. raise your voice in support of something
4. act as a representative or a spokesperson
5. expensive rent
6. a system of government in which the leaders are chosen by the people in free elections
7. facing a problem to try to solve it

Talking about Democracy

1. dealing with
2. high rent
3. community
4. speak up
5. choose

Talking about Democracy: Branches of Government

1. executive
2. legislative
3. legislative
4. executive
5. judicial
6. executive
7. judicial

Good Question I: Keisha Khan Interviews Derin Korkmaz

1. Why are you running for City Council?
2. What do you say to working people who say they don't have time to vote?

3. What are different ways to vote?
4. What are your plans for helping immigrants?
5. Where did you get that beautiful blouse?

Good Question II: Ranked-Choice Voting

1. What is ranked-choice voting and how does it work?
2. How many candidates can you choose?
3. What are the benefits of ranked-choice voting?
4. Which elections use ranked-choice voting?

Good Question III: A Special Guest

1. Why should I vote for you?
2. What are your ideas for affordable health care?
3. What can you do about my high rent?
4. Who do you support for mayor and borough president?
5. How old do I have to be to vote?
6. How can I register to vote?
7. Do you like my blouse?

What Can You Say about Bullying?

1. I understand how you feel.
2. You are smart and we can't let bullies stop us from learning.
3. What he said is wrong.

4. We are speaking with the teacher about the problem.
5. I will be waiting for you when you come home and I want to hear all about your day at school.

What Can You Say about Democracy?

1. I am an immigrant.
2. It gives us the power to choose our leaders.
3. We need to choose people who can solve problems, like paint that is peeling in old buildings, asthma, high rent, and other issues.
4. There is a vaccine against coronavirus. We also need a vaccine against hate.

What Can You Do?

1. E
2. A
3. D
4. B
5. F
6. C

Watch the Show: Who Says It (I)?

1. the director
2. Shinji
3. Keisha
4. Derin

Watch the Show: Who Says It (II)?

1. Deji
2. Ken
3. Tobi
4. Tobi

5. Shola
6. Shola
7. Eri
8. Pina

Watch the Show: Who Says It (III)?

1. the production assistant
2. the cameraperson
3. Shola
4. Deji
5. Eri

Words in the Cloud I

1. Shola, Deji, Tobi, Derin, Keisha, Eri, Ken, Shinji
2. mother, father, husband, wife, sister, aunt
3. health care, affordable housing, living wages, education, job training
4. mayor, City Council member, public advocate, comptroller, borough president
5. City Council
6. candidate
7. The Bronx
8. ranked-choice voting

Words in the Cloud II

1. bullying
2. speech
3. vaccine
4. interview
5. democracy, choose
6. primary
7. register
8. early, mail
9. Black Lives Matter
10. voice



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Notes:

Notes:

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Read
Learn**



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