

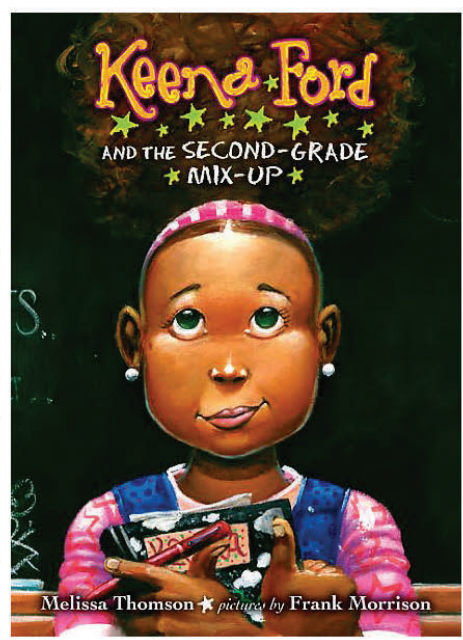
Reading ^{with} Relevance

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR

Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up

A novel by Melissa Thomson



Recommended for:
Grade Levels
2nd-3rd

A tool to inspire change

This literacy curriculum is constructed around a content-rich novel that builds students' literacy skills and supports their character development and self-confidence. Students are motivated to read because they relate to the strong, diverse, and resilient characters featured in our selected novels and because each session gives them the opportunity to connect what they've read to their own lives.

Developed, field-tested, and refined in our own tutoring and mentoring programs, this Common Core Standards curriculum has inspired persistently low-performing students to engage with literature, make meaning in their lives, and improve their English language arts skills. Now, *Reading with Relevance* is available to help you dig deep into the social, emotional, and academic needs of your students, whether in your classroom, after-school program, or youth development agency!



Why

Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up



Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up is the story of a young African-American girl, Keena Ford, and the predicaments she gets into at school. We chose this novel for its powerful attention to some rich social and emotional themes: honesty, friendship, family, forgiveness, trust, and kindness. Students will find themselves relating to and being inspired by Keena's adventures; this curriculum will help students build connections between Keena's story and their own.



This teacher's guide includes:

- A facilitator's guide with tips and resources for implementing the curriculum.
- A map of Common Core Standards addressed through this program.
- Seven individual lesson plans, including vocabulary, discussion questions, journal prompts, extension activities, and all handouts.
- An assessment to monitor student progress.
- Regular checkpoints to help teachers assess their students' progress on ELA standards.
- A culminating essay-building unit.
- An appendix with additional teaching resources and activities to continue exploring this novel.

Session 2

pages 18-35

Vocabulary

compromise (pg 20):
n., an agreement with
someone

awful (pg 26): adj., very
bad or unpleasant

horrible (pg 26): adj.,
unkind, rude

admitted (pg 27): v.,
acknowledged something is
true

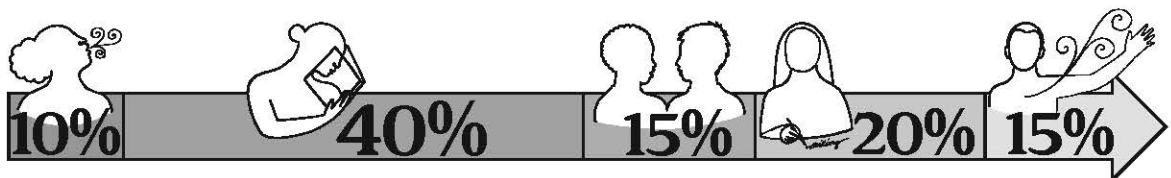
boring (pg 34): adj.,
uninteresting

Today's Themes

The first theme for today is **gender**. Keena doesn't like "girly" things like pink, playing with dolls, or having tea parties. Have students think about the things that they have been told are "girly" or "boyish." Who gets to decide if something is "girly"? Remind them that some girls like "boyish things" and some boys like girly things. The second theme in today's reading is **trust**. Keena trusts her dad enough to tell him about how she feels, and her new teacher trusts the class to make up rules for itself. You can have students think about who they can trust in their lives and how they are good and trustworthy friends.

Session 1 Recap

Keena Ford lives in an apartment with her mom and older brother, Brian, in Washington, D.C. Keena sees her dad, who lives in Maryland, on the weekends. Her best friend is Eric. Keena doesn't really like having tea parties with girls, and other girls tell her that she shouldn't have a boy for a best friend. We learn that sometimes she gets into trouble at school. Keena is excited to begin 2nd grade until she gets a letter from the principal telling her that she and Eric will not be in the same class: 2nd grade will be split up into one boys' class and one girls' class.





During Reading

decaf (pg 21): Means something does not have caffeine. Caffeine is stimulant in coffee, tea, and some soda. Caffeine wakes people up, but it can also give people the jitters or stomach aches and can create dependency, which is one reason many people recommend that children should not have caffeine. Keena orders a “decaf with skim milk, hold the coffee,” which means that she orders milk.

daytime minutes (pg 24): Daytime minutes are the minutes used on a cell phone when one talks on the phone during the day (peak hours), as opposed to at night. Usually phone companies charge more for these minutes or allow fewer of them before they charge.



Discussion Questions

- Why does Brian “hang out” with his friend instead of “play” with his friend?
- Why does Keena like going to “coffee” with her dad?
- Why does Keena not like Linny Berry? Do you think that it is fair for Keena to still be upset at Linny? Would you still be upset with her?
- What does Keena love so far about 2nd grade?
- Why does Keena really like her new teacher, Ms. Campbell?
- What is your favorite thing about your class?

FIRST DAYS

- Keena is nervous and excited about her first day of school.

Think back to your own first day of school. How did you feel?

- » How did you get ready?
- » Did you do anything special with your family to prepare?
- » What were you most excited about?

TRUST

- When Keena is worried about starting school, she talks to her dad over coffee.

Which grown ups can you talk to when you are worried or sad or just want someone to listen to you?

- » What types of things can you tell this person?
- » What makes her or him a good listener?
- » What makes someone trustworthy to talk to?



Extension Activity

Now that students have read a little bit about Keena, have them describe her using as many adjectives as they can. Please remind students about the definition of an adjective, which they can read on their worksheets. Have students draw a picture of Keena and fill the rest of the frame with words that describe her. Then ensure that they write three sentences about Keena using some of the adjectives they chose.

Materials:

- » Describing Keena Ford Handout

Name: _____

My Drawings of Keena Ford

Words that describe Keena Ford:

Write 3 sentences about Keena Ford:

Now that you know a little more about Keena, draw a picture of her in the bubble. Then fill the square next to it with as many words to describe Keena as you can think of. Finally, use the space below to write three sentences about Keena—don't forget to choose some of the words you brainstormed!

Describing Keena Ford

Appendix

Additional Activities

Contents

Linking Quotes	48
Venn Diagram	49
Symbols.....	50
Real Life Connector	51
Connections: <i>Feelings</i>	52
Keena Ford Standards Quiz.....	53
Vocabulary Match	54
Answer Key	55
Student Evaluation	56
Teacher Reflection.....	58
About Us.....	59



Get to Know MFI

Moving Forward Institute is a nonprofit publisher of social justice educational materials. The organization was created by the founders and staff of Moving Forward Education, a multi-generational tutoring and mentoring organization aimed at fostering academic and emotional success for underserved students in California. Since our founding in 2003, MFE has provided tutoring and mentoring services to thousands of students and has trained hundreds of young adults to enter careers in the educational field. This reading curriculum was developed by our leadership team and its advisory group, including credentialed teachers and college professors. This program has been successfully facilitated throughout California by achieving powerful and measurable results for students and schools. To learn more about our organization, or our research and data, please contact us today.

Our Purpose

At Moving Forward Institute, we know that students can be successful learners when their social and emotional needs are met.

We empower educators to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of their students by using culturally-relevant and gender-responsive reading curricula.

Training and Professional Development Services

While lesson plans are designed to be easily facilitated by classroom teachers and after-school staff alike, our in-person training and professional development services will ensure fully effective implementation of the literacy curricula.

Additionally, we offer technical support, classroom observation, and program evaluation services to help your program be successful. Contact us for more information about these services!

Contact Us

Contact us today to learn more about how the Moving Forward Institute can support your students and staff!

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If your students liked *Keena Ford and the Second-Grade Mix-Up*

*...they might love some of our other book selections! We suggest that you check out *Donavan's Word Jar*, or *Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up*. Please visit our website today to browse our full selection of socially and emotionally rich novel-based curricula!*