

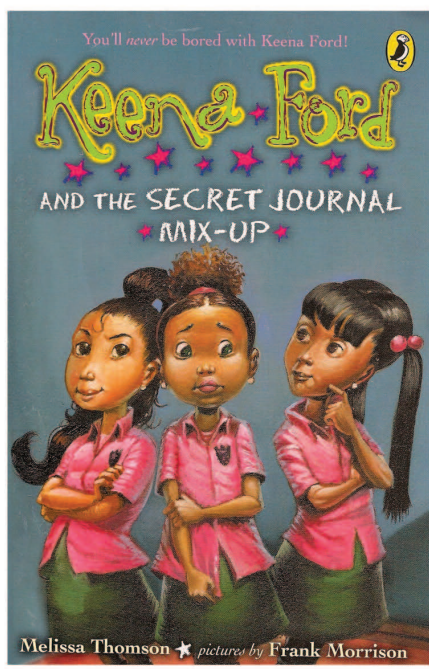
Reading ^{with} Relevance

Building INDEPENDENT READERS and THINKERS

A TEACHER'S GUIDE FOR

Keena Ford and the Secret Journal 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 Secret Journal Mix-Up*



Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-Up is the story of a young African-American girl, Keena Ford, and the predicaments she gets into when she loses her private journal.

We chose this novel for its thoughtful attention to some important social and emotional themes: honesty, bravery, bullying, friendship, 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 17-33



Vocabulary

copying (pg 20): v., using someone else's words or work

quickly (pg 22): adv., in a hurry

crowded (pg 23): adj., too close together

moral (pg 24): n., a lesson you learn from a story

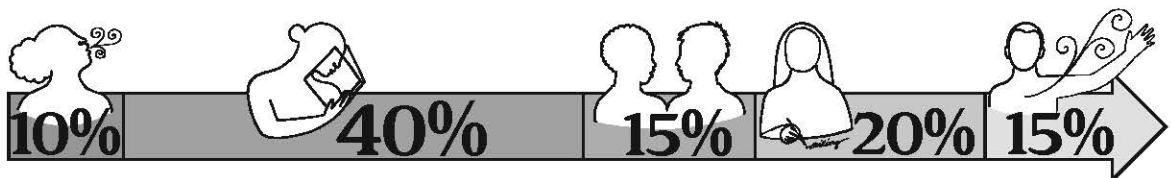
squashed (pg 29): adj., squished or flattened

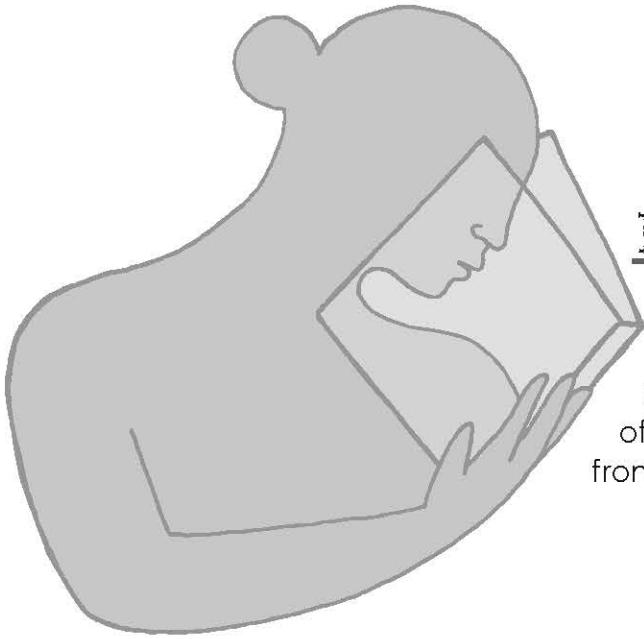
Today's Theme

Today's theme is **expressing feelings**. Keena writes everything in her journal, which is where she shares her private thoughts and feelings. Remind your students that everyone needs a space to voice their feelings. Ask your students how they express what is going on in their lives. Do they write in a journal like Keena? Do they have an adult or a friend they can share their feelings with? Why is it so important to have a way to express what we are feeling?

Session 1 Recap

Keena starts her story by telling us that her journal has been stolen! The story starts one day after school when Keena's mom has to go to Brian's school because Brian has been "clowning" around. Keena goes to Tiffany's house, and Keena's mom asks her to behave while she is there. Keena doesn't particularly like Tiffany or Mrs. Harris. She is in such a hurry to leave Tiffany's that she forgets her precious journal at their house!





During Reading

fable (pg 24): Like Keena says, a fable is a story used to teach a certain lesson or moral; most fables involve animals. The fable of the country mouse and city mouse comes from Aesop, an ancient Greek storyteller.

A stylized, grey-toned illustration of two people's heads in profile, facing each other as if in conversation. Between their heads is a small speech bubble containing a question mark.

Discussion Questions

- Why is Keena mad at Mrs. Harris?
- Why is Keena surprised that Tiffany is copying?
- What does Brian say he wants to do?
- Why do you think he says this?
- How do you think that Keena feels when her brother says that he wants to go live with their dad?
- Why is Keena so upset after dinner? How would you feel if you were Keena?
- Make a prediction. What do you think that Tiffany is going to do with Keena's journal?

**EXPRESSING
FEELINGS**

- Keena expresses her most private thoughts and feelings in her journal.

How do you express your feelings?

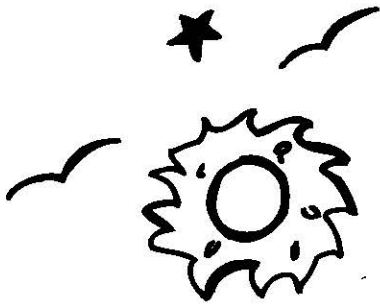
- » Do you have a friend or adult you can talk with?
- » Do you keep a journal like Keena?
- » How would you feel if your private feelings were shared with others?

FAMILY

- Keena and Brian live with their mom, but when Brian is mad he says he wants to go live with their dad.

Everyone's family looks a little different. Describe your family.

- » Who is in your family?
- » Do you all live in one place? In different places?
- » What is the best thing about your family?



Extension Activity

Keena expresses her most private thoughts in her journal. Everyone needs a space to share their private feelings. Today, students will write a journal entry in which they can express anything that is important to them. Assure them that their thoughts are just for them; this is a safe space where they can explore how they feel, and no one else will read them (not even you)! Encourage students to use as many complete sentences as they can.

Materials:

- » My Journal Entry Handout

Name: _____



★ My Secret Journal



Keena expresses her most private thoughts in her journal. Everyone needs a space to share their private feelings. Use this page to express anything that is important to you. Your thoughts are just for you; this is a safe space where you can explore how you feel, and no one else will read your words (not even your teacher)! Don't forget to use as many complete sentences as you can.

My Journal Entry

Appendix

Additional Activities

Contents

Linking Quotes	48
Venn Diagram	49
Keena Ford Timeline	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!

Online: www.movingforwardinstitute.org
By Email: info@movingforwardinstitute.org
By Phone: 510-658-4475
By Mail: 1425 Park Ave
Emeryville, CA 94608

If your students liked *Keena Ford and the Secret Journal 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 Second-Grade Mix-Up*. Please visit our website today to browse our full selection of socially and emotionally rich novel-based curricula!