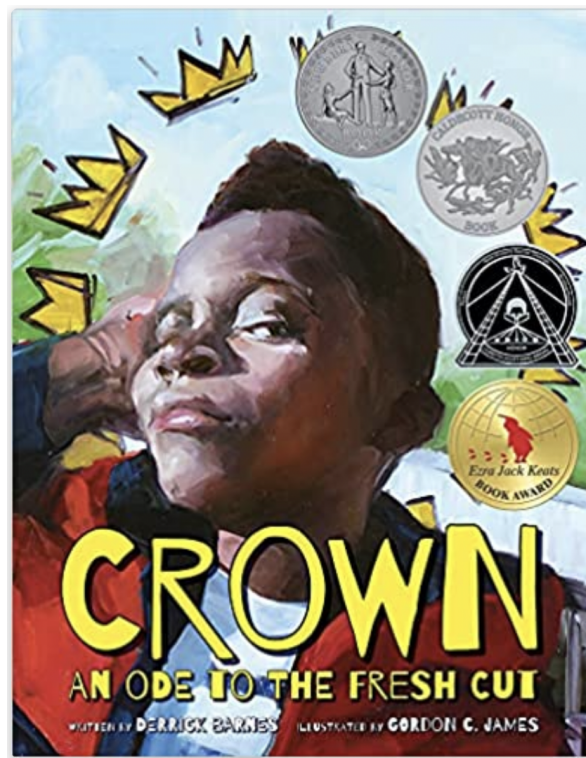


Student Workbook

Unit 3: Language, Race & Identity

Cycle 2: Crown



Name: _____ *Date:* _____

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Name _____

Date _____

Question: What do the texts and the video tell you about the relationship between hair styles and identity?

CROWN: An Ode to the Fresh Cut	Video: The Story of Black and AfroTexture Hair	The Crown Act: Protecting Cultural and Ethnic Hair Identity

Lesson 3: Our Hair!

Questions	Your Answers
What are some things you learned about the different ways that hair connects to culture, identity and traditions?	
What personal connections do you make between your hair and your identity?	

Lesson 4

The Crown Act: Protecting Cultural and Ethnic Hair Identity



Image 1. New York City has just taken action to ensure that black people are not discriminated against due to their hairstyles. Photo by: Delmaine Donson/Getty

A Presidential Photo With An Important Message



When a young Black child touched former President Barack Obama's hair, the photo went viral!

"One of my favorite photographs of President Barack Obama is him in the Oval Office leaning down to allow 5-year-old Jacob Philadelphia to touch his hair," said Carmelyn Malalis. Malalis is in charge of New York City's Commission on Human Rights. Malalis called Obama's behavior in

the photo "a powerful message of affirmation" for laws that protect ethnic hair identity.

Recently, New York City made it illegal for anyone to discriminate against people's hairstyles **because** too many school and business were telling people they couldn't wear hairstyles like braids, afros, and hair locs. These discriminatory policies had an especially negative effect on Black people. The new law is called the Crown Act, and protects individuals' hair rights. It stands for **C**reating a **R**espectful and **O**pen **W**orld for **N**atural Hair.

Why do we need a Crown Act?



Black people's hair has often been described as unprofessional and unacceptable in school and work places. **Rather than** celebrating hairstyles that are important for people's identities, some laws have actually blocked Black people and others from wearing their hair like they want.

Opponents of the Crown Act argue that hairstyles and designs can be too personal and be distracting to others. They say that policies that require strict uniforms and standards are necessary at

schools and businesses. Opponents of the Crown Act also argue that many of the banned hairstyles are not exclusively worn by Black people. They think the law makes understanding people's identity and ethnicity confusing because braiding, cutting, coloring, curling, straightening, and styling can be an individual preference.

So, do people who wear these hairstyles really need to be protected?



In 2019, people got angry about a case involving a high school athlete named Andrew Johnson. Andrew was forced to cut his hair locs before he was allowed to compete in a wrestling match.

In 2021, young athlete Nichole Pyles, was told in the middle of her softball game to remove the beads in her hair or she would be ejected from the game. She chose to cut her braids and beads off in order to remain in the game. The umpires said that the softball rule book says that student athletes were not allowed to wear beads in their hair. Even though hair beads are a Black hair tradition, Nichole had to make a difficult and painful choice.

Black Hair Is A Symbol Of Pride And Protest

Noliwe Rooks is a professor of Africana studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She says that hair is connected to civil rights.

Black hair has always been a symbol of Black identity and joy that Black people shouldn't have to give up. There is a lot of pressure in society for Black people to look a certain way in order to fit in. In fact, styles like braids, locs, and twists actually protect people's hair, while doing things like straightening and blow drying hair can cause damage.



The Civil Rights Movement in the United States was important for celebrating Black hair and identity as beautiful. While the Civil Rights Movement was important for laws that protected people from discrimination, the Crown Act goes further by protecting hair styles specifically, which can benefit other communities, for example Native American men's braids.

The Crown Act and similar laws would help make sure that that cultural expression through hair is our right!

Lesson 4

Subordinating Conjunctions

A subordinating conjunction is a word that is used to connect two ideas in a sentence.

Here are 3 subordinating conjunctions that we will study today:

1. Because
2. Although
3. Rather than

-
1. The word **BECAUSE** is used when you want to give a reason for something. For example,

EXAMPLE:

*People's hair can be very important to them **because** it is part of their identities.*

-
2. The word **ALTHOUGH** is used when you want to compare two different ideas

EXAMPLE:

***Although** some laws are in place to protect people's rights, they need to be more effective*

-
3. The words **RATHER THAN** are used to show a choice between two ideas

EXAMPLE:

*Some places have decided to ban certain hair styles **rather than** let people wear their hair however they want.*

Glossary

Bias: To be prejudice against a person, thing, or group compared with another, usually in a way that is unfair

Discriminate: To treat unjustly, usually because of race, gender, age, or ability

Flawless: Without any defect.

Masterful: Having great skill in a particular activity.

Policy: A contract or law of action adopted or proposed by the government or a business.

Visible: Able to be seen.