

America to me *real talk*

EPISODE GUIDE 03

Racialized Relationships in Families
and Communities

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TOPIC

Racialized Relationships in Families and Communities

By Episode 3, the racial cracks at Oak Park and River Forest High School (OPRFHS) are becoming more apparent, as are the complexities of Oak Park’s racialized relationships. Terrence’s relationship with his mother, Jada’s and Charles’s interactions with their physics teacher, and teacher Jessica Stovall’s experiences with her family and work all illustrate the diversity of racial relationships and their power to impact identity, self-image, and success.

Organizing a Group Discussion?
Be prepared! Before you start, read the Organizer Guide.



ANALYZE

- Where or how do we see the OPRFHS administration taking responsibility for building relationships with students, families, and faculty of color?
- How would you describe the racialized relationship between Jada and her physics teacher? Think of some specific examples from the episode.
- How do some of the other characters experience their family history in school?

WHAT IS INSTITUTIONALIZED OPPRESSION?

Institutionalized Oppression is a systemic mistreatment that occurs when established laws, customs and practices create inequities solely due to an individual’s race.

REFLECT

- How does your family experience shape how you show up in conversations about race?
- Who are you comfortable having a discussion about race with and why? Who are you not comfortable speaking with about race and why?
- What messages did you receive about race from your family, and how do those messages conflict or align with the messages you receive(d) in school?

ENGAGE

These can be group or individual activities. Encourage participants to share their findings with the whole group.

- ☑ **Racial Identity Gallery Walk** [1 day]
Create a visual collage, drawing, or group of images of your family. Include things that reflect and are important to your racial identity. Do a gallery walk with your group to appreciate the diverse racial identities among you and within your families.
- ☑ **Fierce Conversations** [Workshop]
Prepare a dialogue with someone who has challenged you regarding race, using Fierce Conversations as your guide.

RACIAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Discuss one or more experiences with your family that shaped your racial identity and your understanding of who you are racially.

- **Consider your family history and what you know about the racialized history of your family.**
- **Feel free to use this as an opportunity to engage with family members who can provide insight into the racial dynamics of your family.**

