

# Film activate:

## Powerful beyond measure

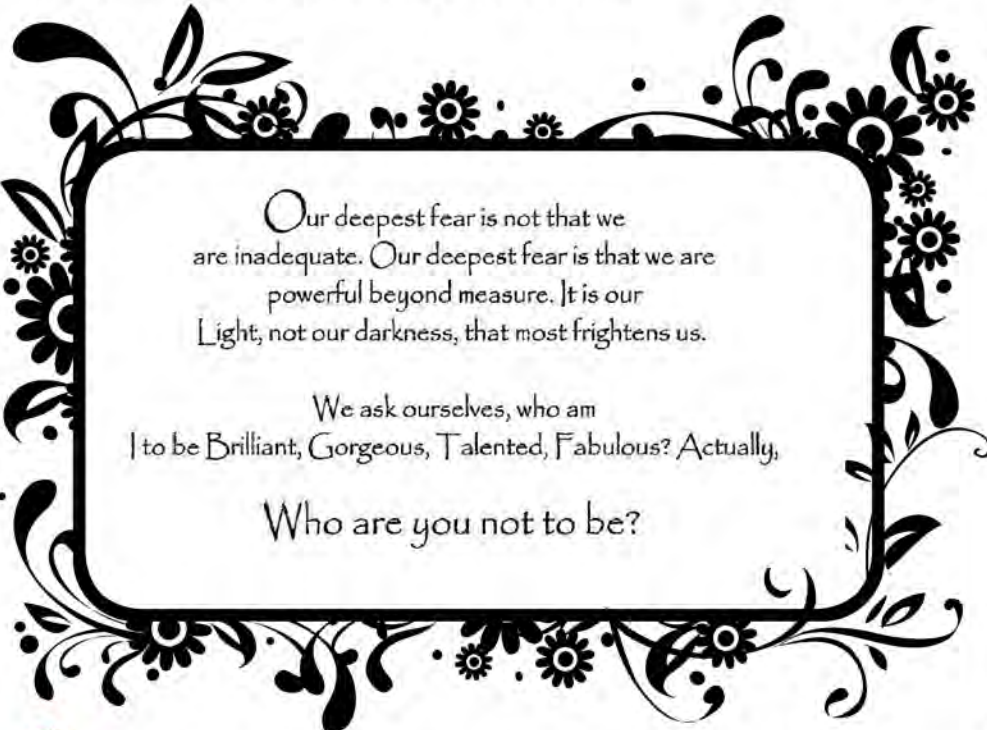
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AKEELAH  
and  
the BEE



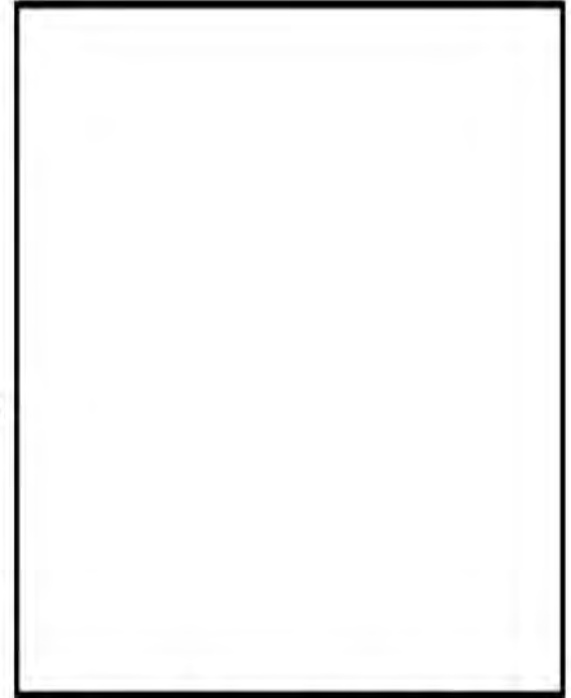
Akeelah is an 11-year-old girl from from a poor neighborhood in South Central Los Angeles, who discovers an unusual talent for spelling. When Akeelah is unable to answer Dr. Larabee about her goals for her life, she is asked to read the quotation on the wall. At that moment, the camera angle changed and so did the lighting. What did this quotation reveal to her? How did the lighting and camerawork reveal that this was a significant moment for Akeelah?



Our deepest fear is not that we  
are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are  
powerful beyond measure. It is our  
Light, not our darkness, that most frightens us.

We ask ourselves, who am  
I to be Brilliant, Gorgeous, Talented, Fabulous? Actually,

Who are you not to be?



2 Preparing for a competition could be a nerve-wrecking event. Have you ever prepared for one? What type? What kind of feelings do you associate with entering a competition? Draw or write your answer below.



Place a checkmark next to each scene where you think Akeelah was wearing her glasses:

- \_\_\_ 1) Opening scene: Walking in her neighborhood.
- \_\_\_ 2) Receiving her 100% spelling test from her teacher.
- \_\_\_ 3) Playing the computer Scrabble game in her room.
- \_\_\_ 4) Meeting Dr. Larabee for the first time at school.
- \_\_\_ 5) Taking part in her school spelling bee.
- \_\_\_ 6) Watching the tape of the National Spelling Bee.
- \_\_\_ 7) Going to Dr. Larabee's house for the first time.
- \_\_\_ 8) Studying words in the dictionary.
- \_\_\_ 9) Going to the Los Angeles (L.A.) School District Spelling Bee.
- \_\_\_ 10) Registering for the L.A. District Spelling Bee.
- \_\_\_ 11) Riding home from the L.A. District Spelling Bee.
- \_\_\_ 12) Going to Woodland Hills for the study group.
- \_\_\_ 13) Studying with Dr. Larabee at his home.
- \_\_\_ 14) Going to Javier's birthday party.
- \_\_\_ 15) Being interviewed by the television reporters.
- \_\_\_ 16) Talking to herself in the mirror at the National Spelling Bee.
- \_\_\_ 17) Ending scene: Montage in her neighborhood.

Was there any pattern or metaphorical interpretation that guided your answers?

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What do you think the director wanted her glasses to represent?

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