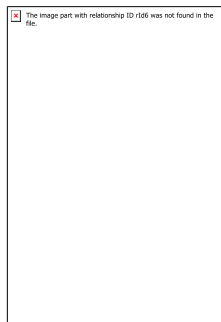


The First Last Part



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Author Johnson, Angela

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Genre Young Adult, Fiction

Synopsis In this prequel to *Heaven*, sixteen-year-old Bobby struggles between sleep deprivation, school pressures, and an increasing sense of fear as he cares for his infant daughter, Feather. Chapters alternate between life before and after the birth of Feather, effectively capturing Bobby's sometimes conflicting emotions as a young father and revealing why he is raising Feather without her mother.

Themes Family Relations

Protagonist Male, African American

Note Over the years, these books have been published in multiple editions. The page numbers in your book may be different than the ones on the lesson plan.

More Information www.scu.edu/character



Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 1



Key Paragraph – 7

“I used to laugh when this old dude, ‘Just Frank’ from the corner, used to ask me if I was being a ‘man.’ He never seemed to ask anybody else if they were being men; at least I never heard him. I laughed ‘cause I didn’t consider him much of one, a man, hangin’ on the corner, drinking forties at ten in the morning. Hell, he was a joke. Always had been.”

Think about the people you know. Choose one who you think is a “man.”

Write a one paragraph explanatory paragraph in which you describe this “man” What characteristics does he possess? Introduce your topic clearly. Develop your topic with relevant facts. Use appropriate transitions to create clarity and flow. Provide a concluding statement, which supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 2



Key Paragraph – 11

“A few minutes later this woman on TV is pointing at a mountain of dirt, and I say—like I’m talking to myself—‘No doubt in my mind that I’m keeping her.’”

Pretend you are Bobby and that you have just made the decision to keep Feather. Write the inner dialogue (explanatory text) - like you were talking to yourself - that went through your mind leading you to this decision. Introduce your dialog clearly previewing what is to follow.

Develop your topic with relevant facts, details, or other information to support your decision. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Establish and maintain formal style. Conclude with a statement, which supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 3



Key Paragraph – 21

“Yeah, Mr. Wilkins, I got your daughter pregnant.

Yeah, Mr. Wilkins, I know that this is a tragedy ‘cause you all expected more responsible behavior from us.

Oh, hell yeah, we know what’s in store for us.

I can’t tell you how upset my parents are, and the way my dad cried, and the way my mom wanted to slap me so hard she bit her lip till it bled down her chin.

No. I don’t have any plans except shooting hoops with my partners at the rec center, and hanging out till we get bored and take in a movie. (Is this what you meant, Mr. Wilkins? Is this what you wanted me to say instead of I’m going to be the best father to me and Nia’s baby that there ever was?)”

Bobby is experiencing the loss of his childhood innocence. Think of a time when you had to grow up and accept more responsibility - a time when you realized people expected more of you than they previously had.

Write a one paragraph explanatory text in which you introduce the situation and share your experiences. Develop your topic with relevant facts and information. Use appropriate transitions to create flow and cohesion. Provide a concluding statement, which supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 4



Key Paragraph – 24

“ ‘Your arcade days are over, brother.’ She laughed before she walked out the front door, mumbling something about going to develop some prints.”

Imagine you are a mother or a father of a teenager approaching the age of 18. Write the introduction for a story in which you have a conversation with your son or daughter about accepting the responsibilities of growing up. This should be in the form of an informative or explanatory text. Introduce your topic clearly using strategies to classify the information you are presenting. Develop the text with information, facts, definitions, details, etc. Use appropriate transitions to create clarity. Establish formal style.

[HINT: Think about your own priorities right now and the order in which you place them. Then imagine yourself grown up, fending for yourself (or for your family) - having a job, paying all the bills, buying all the food and supplies, etc. In what ways might you need to change?] Begin your story with the following sentence: “Your _____ days are over, _____.”

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 5



Key Paragraph – 32-33

“Feather spent last night in the hospital, with me sitting next to her bed all night long. I’ve had about twenty minutes’ sleep in the last three days. Almost got locked in the toilet off the waiting room ‘cause I was so sleepy I hallucinated being on the subway.

I got into a fight with a nurse.

Left my backpack in the taxi I came to the hospital in.

And before all of that, Feather threw up on the last clean jacket I had, and my mom is out of town and not answering her voice mail.

Half of Pop’s kitchen staff called off and he’s up to his ass...”

Reflect on Bobby’s parents’ hands-off approach to being grandparents. Decide whether or not you agree with the way they are treating Bobby and his new situation as a father at 16.

Write an explanatory text in which you share your opinion of Bobby’s parents and their approach. Use details from the text as well as your own experiences to support your answer. Introduce your topic/idea. Preview what is to follow. Develop your topic with relevant ideas and facts, information, and examples. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Provide a concluding statement that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 6



Key Paragraph – 40

“A minute later, I’m puking in front of a flower shop and K-boy is telling the owner to stop screaming at me, grow a heart, and get out of my face.”

Bobby’s body reacts physically to stress with an upset stomach. Prior to throwing up, he also described his fear of having an ulcer. What happens to you when you get stressed? Read the article on the effects of stress is there a difference between good stress and bad stress?

Think of a time when you felt overly stressed. Then as vividly as possible, explain the situation your feelings and your reactions to it. Introduce your topic and the situation. Use the article to cite definitions and to give you additional fact/support material. Explain to the reader how the stress you were feeling affected you physically and mentally. Use good transitions to create flow. Conclude with a statement, which supports your introduction.
<http://www.webmd.com/balance/stress-management/stress-management-effects-of-stress>

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 7



Key Paragraph – 45 or 49

“Jackie looks the same.

Laughs the same, shaking when she laughs and tossing her beaded braids in back of her when she puts her hands on her hips to tell one of the parents that she needs to give her baby more vegetables to make him regular.

She’s probably talked the same way to parents for thirty years.

She probably talked to my own mom that way. Everybody listened.”

Or

“No I got all these pamphlets and things from the doctor. All of them say it’s okay, just use common sense.”

Over the next week you will be a newspaper reporter for the school newspaper. Choose an event from today’s reading to report on - perhaps a human-interest story on Jackie the babysitter, or perhaps an article on the dos and don’ts of pregnancy.

Be sure your story has a beginning, middle and an end. Depending on the story you choose to write, you may need to include some of your own creative facts and details in order to create an interesting story.

As you write your story make sure your story is at least one paragraph and an explanatory or informative style. Introduce your topic clearly. Organize your ideas, concepts, and information. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, details, quotes, or additional information. Use appropriate transitions to create flow. Provide a conclusion that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 8



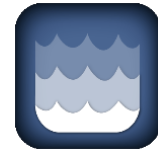
Key Paragraph – 54

“Today we’re turning everything in Nelson’s room upside down. Desks, chairs, posters, garbage cans, whatever.”

You are a reporter for the newspaper published at Bobby’s school. Report on the vandalism to Mr. Nelson’s classroom. Be sure your story has a beginning, middle, and an end. While some details and facts are provided in the reading, you may need to include some of your own creative facts and details as well. Be sure to explain what happened, describe the scene, and include a quote from a student and one from the principal. Discuss any possible leads as to who did it and the consequences should the perpetrators be caught.

As you write your story make sure your story is at least one paragraph and an explanatory or informative style. Introduce your topic clearly. Organize your ideas, concepts, and information. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, details, quotes, or additional information. Use appropriate transitions to create flow. Provide a conclusion that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 9



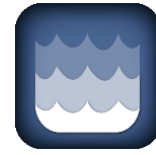
Key Paragraph – 60

“I get about two seconds of relief until the savior turns out to have a uniform and a gun, and I’m sitting in the back of the radio car all the way to the station.”

You are a reporter for the newspaper published at Bobby’s school. Report on Bobby’s arrest. Be sure your story has a beginning, middle and an end. While some details and facts are provided in the reading, you may need to include some of your own creative facts and details as well. Be sure to explain what happened, describe the scene, and include a quote from the police officer that made the arrest.

As you write your story make sure your story is at least one paragraph and an explanatory or informative style. Introduce your topic clearly. Organize your ideas, concepts, and information. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, details, quotes, or additional information. Use appropriate transitions to create flow. Provide a conclusion that supports your introduction.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 10



Key Paragraph – 72

“He looks sad for me, but I must have been hallucinating ‘cause the next second he’s saying, ‘You seriously messed it up today. Coco couldn’t get your mo, and I was out of the restaurant most of the day. She was on the verge of calling the cops.’”

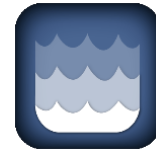
Complete the news story you began earlier today. You will likely wish to focus on Bobby’s failure to take care of his child. Pretend you have contacted the police to find out about Bobby’s charges and that you have also called a social worker to find out about the possible ramifications of Bobby’s neglect. You may wish to pretend you have contacted Bobby as well. Be sure to include all the details. Provide quotes from your sources. Pose a closing question for your readers.

As you write your story make sure your story is at least one paragraph and an explanatory or informative style. Introduce your topic clearly. Organize your ideas, concepts, and information. Develop your topic with relevant facts, definitions, details, quotes, or additional information. Use appropriate transitions to create flow. Provide a conclusion that supports your introduction.

Final writing product:

Day 10 News Story	Choose a pregnancy complication that mothers can be affected by.	List three facts about this complication Write a paragraph describing it.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 11



Key Paragraph – 78

“Her voice is soft and low. ‘My parents are talking about sending me to my grandma’s house in Georgia. They say I wouldn’t be under so much stress there.’”

Nia risks being sent to Georgia for a variety of different reasons. Write an explanatory paragraph in which you explain Nia’s situation and why a stay in Georgia is warranted. Cite why her health is important and what high blood pressure can do to a baby and mom.

Introduce your topic. Preview your ideas and organize them clearly. Develop the topic with relevant facts and definitions and details. Use appropriate clauses to create cohesion and flow in your writing. Conclude with a statement, which supports your introduction.

Final Writing Product

Day 11 Feature Story	Interview a teen parent, agency that serves or supports teen parents.	Write a story about the trials of being a teen parent. What stigmas are faced and how do teen parents complete school, work, etc.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 12



Key Paragraph – 85

“ ‘My mom talked about adoption, but I don’t know if that would make me bug. I mean the idea that I could be passing my own kid every day and not know it. And what about college? A baby, then?’ ”

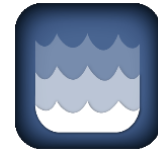
Imagine Nia and Bobby agreeing to give the baby up for adoption. Investigate the adoption or safe surrender process.

Write a one paragraph explanatory paragraph in which you share the process with your reader. Introduce the topic clearly. Organize your ideas with relevant information. Develop your topic with relevant facts and details (do not share your opinion just facts of the process). Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Maintain formal style. Provide a concluding statement, which supports your introduction.

Final Writing Product

Day 12 Data	Research the cost of having a child	Find data about the costs related to having a child. Give data to show the correlation between higher education and income Cite the statistics of children of teen parents being young parents themselves.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 13



Key Paragraph – 95

“Finally Paul says, ‘What about college for next year? What’s the good of being able to graduate at 16 if you’re not going to be in college?’”

‘I figure I’d just get a McJob for a year and try to save some money.’

‘You’d get to spend more time with Feather.’

I look at Paul and then at the running, screaming kids jumping up and down on the playground. Feather will be one of them one day, and I’ll be one of the scared, happy, mad, yelling, smiling parents who sit on the benches and watch. Just watch it all happen.

I say it like I’ve known it forever, only now it’s so clear and I can say it: ‘I’ve never been closer to or loved anybody more than I love Feather.’

Paul throws a ball back to a group of kids over by the slide and says, I know that, kid. I know that.”

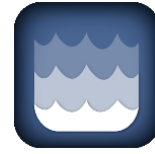
College had many benefits and support for Bobby. How will having an education benefit him and Feather? Write a paragraph in which you inform your reader about the benefits of college for a young parent?

Introduce the topic. Information your reader with information (graphs, charts, definitions). Organize your information clearly. Write in a logical fashion with clear transitions. Conclude with a statement that supports your introduction.

Final Writing Product

Day 13 News	Research delivery complications.	Write a story that highlights the complications that affect mothers in labor. Cite statistics and prevention.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 14



Key Paragraph – 103

“I know that even when everything’s changing, Feather’s not gonna mind as long as she’s with me.”

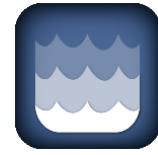
Bobby is confident that Feather is reliant on him and that she needs him and that she won’t care what happens next as long as she has her dad.

Write an explanatory paragraph, which supports his thought. Introduce your topic. Support it with facts and information (definitions, quotes, charts). Organize your text in a logical fashion with appropriate transitions. Conclude with a statement that supports your introduction.

Final writing product

Day 14	Research Societal Costs of teen parents.	Write a news/feature story that highlights the costs of teens having children. Where does the money come from to support social programs needed to support young parents and their children.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 15



Key Paragraph – 106

“It would all be back the way it was before, in a month. Nothing would have changed. We’d leave school and keep on going.

No baby in a month.”

Clearly something major changed in the lives of Bobby and Nia that the author has not yet revealed. We know that Bobby has kept the baby, and that while Nia is near enough to be visited, she is not available as a parent.

Visit the following website

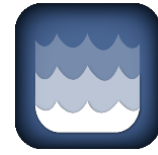
<http://www.webmd.com/baby/features/childbirth-complications>

Write an informative paragraph that detail’s the complications that can potentially be a part of childbirth (choose one). Introduce your topic. Develop the topic with relevant facts and information. Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion. Provide a concluding statement, which supports your introduction.

Final Writing Product

Day 15	Prevention	Write a news/feature story that highlights the preventative services that are available for young people to prevent parenthood.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 16



Key Paragraph – 115

“All I want to do is lie here and sleep, even though I see the blood and it shouldn’t be where it is. And it was just a minute ago Bobby was singing a shampoo commercial, but he’s gone now.”

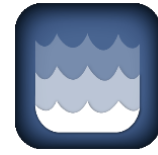
Review the list of clues you have been keeping regarding Nia’s whereabouts.

Write a one paragraph explanatory text that details where you think she is and what happened to her. Use your clues to help support your writing with facts from the text. Organize your paragraph in a logical flow and order. Use appropriate transitions. Conclude with a statement, which supports your introduction.

Final Writing Product

Day 16	Opinion	What do you think we should do to help teens make informed decisions as it relates to being a teen parent? Address prevention, support for healthy pregnancy? And options once the child is born.
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Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 17



Key Paragraph – 125

“When I walked out of the office I think I see “Just Frank” standing at the end of the hall. And then I know I’m being a man, not just some kid who’s upset and wants it his way.”

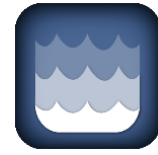
Bobby believes he is making the right decision to keep the baby, while the social worker believes that the right decision would be to give her up. What does it mean to be a man? What is the difference between being a father and a dad? Which do you think Bobby wants to be?

Write an explanatory paragraph in which you define the term “man”, “dad”, and “father”, and explain what Bobby wants to be. Introduce your topic. Organize your writing with definitions and with a logical flow. Use examples from the text and your life to support your thesis. Use transitions to create flow and cohesion. Close with a statement, which supports your introduction.

Or

Write the climactic dialogue for a choice story of your choosing where the main character has to make a difficult decision that may affect the rest of his or her life and the life of others.

Character Based Literacy Program Writing Prompt
The First Part Last, Day 18



Key Paragraph – 130

“I will talk about how, when I finally visited Paul in Heaven, Ohio, the town was out of some old postcard and Feather smiled at everybody when we walked down the main street.”

Bobby shares about what it feels like to feel brand new. How he and Feather were new in a new place with new experiences. Why is it important for him to move out and move forward?

Think about a time in your life where you needed to give something up in order to grow and move on. Write an explanatory paragraph sharing that moment and why it was important to let go before you could grab on to something new. Introduce your topic. Organize your ideas. Use good transitions to maintain cohesion and flow. Conclude with a statement that supports your topic.

Final Writing Product:

The final writing project will be writing to explain or inform your reader. You will do this by creating a newspaper layout to share about topics related to teen pregnancy and the impacts it has on families and society.

Research various different aspects of pregnancy, parenting, and write about them using the informative/explanatory format and standards.

Day 10 News Story	Choose a pregnancy complication that mothers can be affected by.	List three facts about this complication Write a paragraph describing it.
Day 11 Feature Story	Interview a teen parent, agency that serves or supports teen parents.	Write a story about the trials of being a teen parent. What stigmas are faced and how do teen parents complete school, work, etc.
Day 12 Data	Research the cost of having a child	Find data about the costs related to having a child. Give data to show the correlation between higher education and income Cite the statistics of children of teen parents being young parents themselves.
Day 13 News	Research delivery complications.	Write a story that highlights the complications that affect mothers in labor. Cite statistics and prevention.
Day 14	Research Societal Costs of teen parents.	Write a news/feature story that highlights the costs of teens having children. Where does the money come from to support social programs needed to support young parents and their children.
Day 15	Prevention	Write a news/feature story that highlights the preventative services that are available for young people to prevent parenthood.
Day 16	Opinion	What do you think we should do to help teens make informed decisions as it relates to being a teen parent? Address prevention, support for healthy pregnancy? And options once the child is born.

Put your stories together in a newspaper style format.

You can add—weather, maps of the Seattle Area, and other information that you learned in the text.

Add charts and graphs to give your reader data to support your stories.

Use the standards outlined above as you write your paragraphs.

Be creative.