

Decision Making Lesson: Attitude Shift

* Discuss how James and Z'Nia's attitudes change over the course of the book. Pose a situation (e.g., students are invited to bring their pets to school for a pet show). Have students write about how James would react to this situation at the beginning of the book and at the end. Pose similar situations for Z'Nia. Again, have students suggest her reactions at the beginning and the end of the book. What generalizations can students draw about the characters' attitudes?

* As an alternative, provide sentences that summarize the characters' possible reactions to hypothetical situations (e.g., Z'Nia throws a rock at Slade), and have students decide whether the statement is true or false. Have them justify their choices.