



10 year old Jabari loves to draw. And through his art and in his dreams, he escapes the reality of the turbulent world around him, including a friend hurt by police violence. In his dream, he meets young people from the Civil Rights Era, including Ruby Bridges and Claudette Colvin, who teach him to be fearless. He meets his hero, Barack Obama, as a 7 year old boy on the eve of the assassination of MLK, Jr... Will Jabari learn to take these lessons back into his own life and heal his community? Using rap, freedom songs, history, and humor, this play explores what it means to have courage in a world where Black children, Black boys, are not safe.

The performance is approximately 48 minutes long. You can watch it all at once or it can be broken up into the following 3 digital "chapters" with the accompanying discussion questions.

Chapter 1 - Approx. 15 minutes. Start of show until 15:36 minutes seconds.

Jabari Dreams of Freedom uses lots of illustration and visuals to create Jabari's home, his drawings, and the world of the Live Stream. What did you notice about the design? How does the design change in different moments of the story?

After Jabari and his friend Emmett's experience with the cops, Jabari doesn't want to go to school anymore. Why do you think that is? What do you think happened?

Have you ever been afraid of something? If so, what? How did you conquer your fear?

We see Jabari express himself through sketching and draw what his perfect, peaceful ideal place would be, where he would want to live forever (with a live stream camera of course!) How would you describe your ideal world? Can you draw it?

We follow Jabari into a dream-like world, ending up inside the internet and then meeting a guide in the form of Jabari's forever President Barack Obama. Who would you like to guide you on a dream journey and why?

Chapter 2 - Approx. 18 minutes. Start at 15:16 minutes until 33 minutes 40.

Jabari Dreams of Freedom uses music throughout the performance. How does the music make each scene feel? What would the story have been like without the music? Traditional Negro spiritual songs are also called "Freedom Songs" - why do you think that they are called that?

In his scene with Arnetta Streeter and James Stewart from the Children's March, there's a moment where they are about to give up. Jabari asks "how can I make them see that what they are doing is important? What would you tell them if you were me?" How would you respond? How do you encourage friends and family to take positive action?

What does Jabari learn from Claudette, Ruby, and the other young people of the Civil Rights Movement? What does Jabari and kids today have in common with their struggles? What has changed?

At first, Jabari doesn't want to learn about civil rights - why do you think this was? How does his understanding change after meeting some of the young people involved in the movement? How do you think learning history changes the way someone sees the present? What are parts of history that you want to learn more about?

Chapter 3 - Approx. 14 minutes. Start at 33 minutes 41 seconds until the end.

In his dream, Jabari gets to meet his hero, his forever president Barack Obama as a young boy. Who is your personal hero? Imagine a scene between you and them as a kid. What would you say to them?

Who was your favorite character in this story and why?

Have you ever stood up for a friend? Or fought for something in which you believed? If so, how?

This production highlighted some of the young people in the Civil Rights Movement - who else do you know that fought for someone else's rights or who are fighting for movements today (like Greta Thunberg for climate change and Malala Yousefzai for female education)? If you were to lead or join a movement, what would you fight for?

What is your definition of bravery? Of freedom?