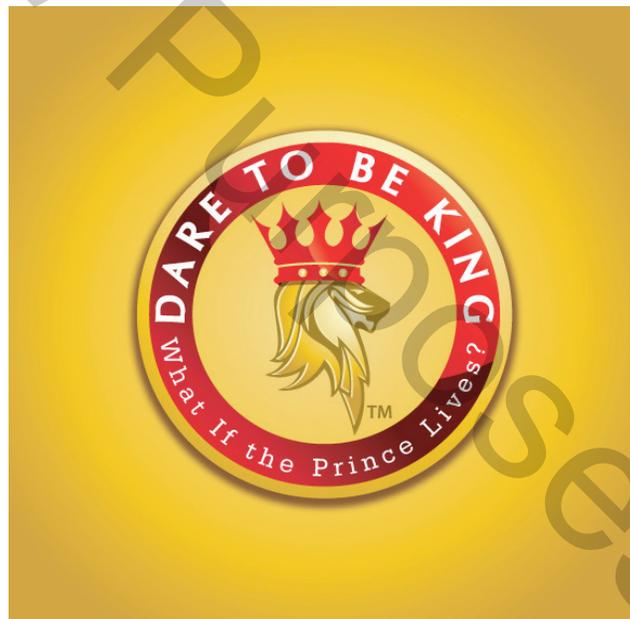


DARE TO BE KING: WHAT IF THE PRINCE LIVES?

A Survival Workbook for Adolescent
African American Males



By **David Miller**

Introduction by **Cephus Johnson**,
Executive Director of the *Oscar Grant Foundation*

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“No matter the circumstances that you may be going through, just push through it”

Ray Lewis, Former NFL Line Backer- Baltimore Ravens

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THE STORY OF OSCAR GRANT

“I heard about Oscar Grant and was mad.
We get killed all the time by the police.”

Jeruis, 19 year-old
Oakland, CA

“Happens all the time. I try to stay away from the police”

T-Rock, 18-year-old
Phoenix, AZ

THE STORY OF OSCAR GRANT

GOALS

1. To examine the last days of the life of Oscar Grant.
2. To encourage participants to understand the importance of understanding the impact that police encounters can have on the lives of young males.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will learn strategies to protect themselves when confronted by the police.
2. Participants will learn how to identify situations that will require them to seek advice from trusted adults.

BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES

1. Participants will be able to make personal choices about their lifestyles that may place them in dangerous situations.
2. Participants will identify one adult (parent, relative, teacher, counselor etc.) in their life who they can approach and discuss the challenges that they face growing up.

ACTIVITY PREPARATION

- Pens/pencil
- Purchase DVD of Fruitvale Station
- Video- Fruitvale Station
- Handouts: Questions for the movie *Fruitvale Station* & 10 Rules of Survival If Stopped By the Police

FACILITATOR'S NOTES

The facilitator will view the movie *Fruitvale Station* before showing it to the group. It is important for the facilitator to be able to indicate many teachable moments in the movie about manhood & decision making. The movie can be purchased at stores that sell movies like Best Buy and or Amazon.

FACILITATORS' INSTRUCTION

Lesson 1

90 minutes



This session will require the facilitator to show the movie Fruitvale Station. The movie, directed by Ryan Coogler, based on the true story of 22 year old Oscar Grant, a young man who was killed by BART police officer Johannes Mehserle at the Fruitvale Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Station in Oakland, California. Early morning hours of New Year's Day 2009 responding to reports of a fight on a crowded Bay Area Rapid Transit train returning from San Francisco, BART Police officers detained Grant and several other passengers on the platform at the Fruitvale BART Station. Officer Mehserle and another officer were restraining Grant, who was lying face down and allegedly resisting arrest. Officer Mehserle stood and, according to his attorney, said: "Get back, I'm gonna tase him." Officer Mehserle drew his gun and shot Grant once in the back. Grant turned out to be unarmed; he was pronounced dead the next morning at Highland Hospital in Oakland.

NOTE:

Due to the sensitive narrative of the film it is important that the facilitator review the film. Several parts of the film address many of the challenges that young men face. It is our goal to use the film and the life and times of Oscar Grant to expose young males to the daily challenges confronting them. It is also important for the facilitator to help young males understand that most law enforcement officers are good people and do not mean them any harm or malice.

This session will require planning to allow time to watch the film and to address questions and comments related to the film. For more information on Oscar Grant visit <http://www.oscargrantfoundation.com>.

Lesson 2

25 minutes



The facilitator will open up the discussion about the movie using a series of guide questions. The guide questions are designed to assist the facilitator with managing the conversation and addressing the facts of the case.

It is critical to get the young males to discuss the life of Oscar Grant and the situation he encountered on the BART train.

*The facilitator will also review 10 Rules of Survival If Stopped by the Police as a tool to consider when stopped by the police.

GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR FRUITVALE STATION MOVIE

What were some of the challenges that Oscar Grant confronts during the earlier parts of the movie?

Could you relate to Oscar Grant? Have you had to go through any of the situations that Oscar Grant had to handle?

Based on what happened to Oscar Grant, what can young people do when confronted by the police?

What other issues jumped out to you when you had a chance to see the things Oscar Grant did on the hours and days before he was killed.

How do you think Oscar Grant life would have been different if he had lived?

What was the significance of the “Pitbull” being hit by the car and the driver leaving the scene?

Preview Purposes Only

10 RULES OF SURVIVAL IF STOPPED BY THE POLICE

1. Be polite and respectful when stopped by the police.
2. Stay calm and remain in control. Watch your words, body language and emotions.
3. Don't, under any circumstance, get into an argument with the police.
4. Always remember that anything you say or do can be used against you in court.
5. Keep your hands in plain sight and make sure the police can see your hands at all times.
6. Avoid physical contact with the police. Do not brush against them in any manner.
7. Do not run even if you are afraid of the police.
8. Even if you believe that you are innocent, do not resist arrest.
9. Don't make any statements about the incident until you are able to meet with a lawyer or a public defender.
10. Remember that your goal is to get home safely. Use the above rules to help do that. If you feel that your rights have been violated, you and your parents have the right to file a formal complaint with your local police jurisdiction.

**Encounters with the police can cost you your life.
Think about your actions!**

KINSHIP WRITING

What were your reactions to the death of Oscar Grant?

How effective do you think the 10 Rules of Survival If Stopped by the Police can help young males deal with police stops? Please explain.

What do the terms probable cause, Stop & Frisk and search/seizure mean?

About the Author

David Miller combines grit and intellect to reach inner-city youth and their parents. His pragmatic approach is simple yet effective because the lens through which he sees the world mirrors the lens through which they see it.

His journey began more than 20 years ago when working with some of the world's most challenging youth in the U.S., UK, Africa & West Indies. Much of David's work has centered on teaching and developing life skills programs designed to promote alternatives to a gang lifestyle, initiatives for harm reduction and strategies for navigating the community.

Miller is the author of several books which includes "Khalil's Way," the first in a series of children's books for boys of color.

Finally, he is a graduate of the University of Baltimore with a B.S. Political Science and Goucher College with a Master's Degree in Education.

Preview Purposes Only

For more information on *Dare To Be King*, please visit
www.daretobeking.net.