

TITLE: A Mason-Dixon Memory

BOOK: Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul

PAGE: 127

TIME TO READ: 10-12 minutes

TOPICS: **Making a Difference,**  
Living and learning  
Friendship and community  
Bias issues—racial

AGE LEVEL: Grades 5 and up

SYNOPSIS: This consists of two interwoven stories of racial prejudice in the South. In 1959, classmates turned down a trip to an amusement park to support their black friend. In 1991, teammates forfeited a golf tournament in support of their African-American friend.

NOTES TO TEACHER:

While this is one of the longer *Chicken Soup for the Soul* stories, it is one of the most powerful in showing friendship overcoming discrimination.

With all age levels, it is important to go over some of the vocabulary prior to reading this story aloud, including the use of the word “nigger.”

For a related story on discrimination from someone who is Jewish, read “The Eyes Have It,” page 258 in *Chicken Soup for the Volunteer’s Soul*

*Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*  
A Mason-Dixon Memory

ELEMENTARY:

PRE-QUESTIONS:

What does “prejudice” mean? (*to “pre-judge” or to have a preconceived opinion that is usually negative or unfavorable*).

Do you think there is still prejudice in the world? Where? What kind? (race, religion, sex, abilities, appearance, wealth?)

**Read Story**

POST-QUESTIONS:

Before the golf tournament in 1991, do you think that Dondre Green was aware of any prejudice because of his skin color?

How do you think he felt to have his teammates forfeit the tournament because a black person was not allowed on the golf course?

In 1959, how do you think Clifton Davis felt to be refused admission to an amusement park?

How do you think he felt when his friends *chose* to skip the amusement park in order to stay with him?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES:

Do the “Memorial Plaque” worksheet, found in the appendix page 379.

How do *you* want to be remembered when you leave this world?

What kinds of things can you *do* to make the world a better place?  
(Discuss individual and class options).