

# Malcolm X Viewing Guide

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** You should define the terms and answer the questions for the film we will be viewing over the next several days. Each vocabulary word and question is worth one point, unless noted.

## Part 1 - Vocabulary Terms and Viewing Questions - Are you watching, awake, and engaged?

Rodney King	Betty Shabazz
Conk	Black Nationalism
Zoot suit	Pilgrimage
Marcus Garvey	Mecca
Joe Louis	Kaaba
Billie Holliday	Martin Luther King Jr.
concurrently	Nelson Mandela
Jackie Robinson	Spike Lee
Nation of Islam	Alex Haley
Elijah Muhammad	_____

1. What video clips are shown at the start of the film?
2. In which U.S. city does the movie begin?
3. What is a conk? Why does Malcolm get a conk? Who conks his hair?
4. The movie shows Malcolm and Shorty having fun doing what?
5. What do you call the type of suits shown at the start of the film?
6. Where did Malcolm grow up?
7. What was Malcolm's father's occupation? What did he believe about race relations in the U.S.?

8. What type of music are Malcolm and Shorty dancing to in the film?
9. What did people call Malcolm in his early years?
10. What happened to Malcolm after his father's death?
11. What does Malcolm's teacher tell him about his dream of becoming a lawyer?
12. What happened to Malcolm's mother?
13. What are Malcolm and the other train workers listening to in the kitchen?
14. Why do the workers on the train yell at Malcolm?
15. What illegal activities does Malcolm start doing in New York?
16. What did Malcolm do to almost get killed by Archie?
17. How was Malcolm's father killed?
18. Why does Malcolm say he was living like an "animal"? What did Malcolm do before going to prison?
19. How does Malcolm end up in prison?

20. How long was Malcolm sentenced for in February 1946?
21. What does Baines say about Malcolm's actions and hair when he's in prison?
22. What does the dictionary teach Malcolm?
23. Why does Baines say Jackie Robinson's breaking of the color barrier was insignificant?
24. Do you agree with what Baines says? Why or why not?
25. Who wrote to Malcolm in prison?
26. What does Malcolm become in prison?
27. How do Malcolm's friends like Archie and Shorty react to his dedication to the Nation of Islam?
28. What does Malcolm say to the priest about Jesus?
29. What did Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam teach African Americans in New York?
30. Who shows up to hear Malcolm X preach? Has he changed from his "old" ways?
31. What has happened to Archie?
32. What are Malcolm's views about black women and their role in the Nation of Islam?
33. Are Malcolm's views on women his own?

34. How does Malcolm get help for Brother Johnson?
  
35. How is the march by the Nation of Islam different from other marches you've seen in the civil rights movement?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
36. What does the march show about Malcolm?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
37. What did Malcolm believe about racial integration?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
38. Who does Malcolm fear? Why do you think he pledged himself to this man?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
39. Who did Malcolm X marry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
40. What does Malcolm X say the Nation of Islam is NOT?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
41. What does Malcolm X say the American politicians are doing to African Americans?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
42. Who does Malcolm X blame for the evils in society like drugs, alcohol, prostitution, etc.?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
43. What do you think Malcolm X thought about Martin Luther King's actions in the Civil Rights Movement, according to this film?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
44. Why does the Nation of Islam begin to mistrust Malcolm X?

45. What does Malcolm X say is Muhammad's solution to race relations in the U.S.?
46. Why was Malcolm X in trouble? What is "the take" he discusses with Betty?
47. What does Betty say Malcolm X is failing to do?
48. Were the stories about Muhammad true? How does Malcolm X find out?
49. What does Baines tell Malcolm X about Elijah Muhammad?
50. Who or what did Malcolm X blame for the assassination of JFK?
51. What did some of the ministers in the Nation of Islam plan to do to Malcolm X?
52. What did Malcolm X do in 1964?
53. What was "Black Nationalism" as described by Malcolm X?
54. How did Malcolm's Black Nationalism deal with white people?
55. What did Malcolm X take in 1964?

56. How did Malcolm X's pilgrimage affect his thoughts about race relations in the U.S.?
57. Why do you think Malcolm X's ideas about other civil rights leaders change after his pilgrimage to Mecca?
58. What began to happen to Malcolm X's family upon his return to the U.S.?
59. What is ironic or similar yet different about the bomb attempt on his family's home as an adult compared to when he was a child?
60. Who was also watching Malcolm X besides the Nation of Islam?
61. What do you think about the Nation of Islam after seeing how they treated Malcolm X after he left them?
62. How and where did Malcolm X die?
63. How did Martin Luther King react to Malcolm X's death?
64. What do the images and sounds at the end of the film show you about the public's perception of his life and resulting death?
65. Do you believe that Malcolm X's legacy still lives on? How?
66. Describe three ways Malcolm X and his message still lives on today?

67. Who speaks at the end of the film about Malcolm X?

68. What is the message of this movie?

69. What information do you gain about this event that you could not get from a book, magazine or newspaper?

**Part 2: Long Essay Question (3-5 pages minimum) - Do you understand the big ideas?**

**Directions:** You must choose and complete **ONE** of the following questions. You may answer the other for extra credit.

1. **EVOLUTION:** Summarize the significant events in the life of Malcolm X from his early childhood to his eventual assassination? Be sure to discuss the four stages of Malcolm's life with reference to his various names: Malcolm Little, Detroit Red, Malcolm X, and el-Hajj Malik el-Shabazz. Also, be sure to describe the evolution of Malcolm X's view on race **with reference to particular scenes** in the movie and the different stages of his life. **(creative option: write a two-voice poem -**

[http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison\\_Contrast/Poem\\_Two\\_Voices.pdf](http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison_Contrast/Poem_Two_Voices.pdf))

How will YOU communicate your knowledge? (essay, poem, slideshow, oral presentation, etc)

2. **COMPARISON:** Discuss the differences between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. In particular discuss what each thought was the best method for gaining racial equality. Looking back at them today, whose method do you think was best? Why? **You must integrate at least 3 quotes from each individual. You WILL need to conduct some additional RESEARCH to address this question thoroughly. (creative option: write a two-voice poem -** [http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison\\_Contrast/Poem\\_Two\\_Voices.pdf](http://www.writingfix.com/PDFs/Comparison_Contrast/Poem_Two_Voices.pdf))

How will YOU communicate your knowledge? (essay, poem, slideshow, oral presentation, etc)

**Part 3: Movie Review - Can you relate to the film on a personal level?**

**Directions:** You must write a one paragraph review or opinion paper about the film. Simply explain if you liked it or not and why? (Creative option: video or audio recorded reflection, with bullet points)

**Part 4: Filmmaker Question - Are you hungry for more knowledge and greater understanding?**

Write a question to the filmmaker that is left unanswered by the motion picture. (this will be recorded and sent to Spike Lee)

**Part 5: Class Discussion - Do you understand and can you verbalize it?**

1. At the beginning of Spike Lee's film "Malcolm X" there is a sound collage of many very intense and provocative statements that Malcolm X made at different points in his life (read and portrayed by actor Denzel Washington) combined with the American flag burning and footage of the Rodney King beating. Why do you think Spike Lee starts the film this way? How do these particular Malcolm X statements and this sequence make you feel? Is it an effective intro? Why or why not?

2. After watching the entire film compare and contrast Malcolm X's beliefs that are stated at the beginning of the film (earlier in his life) with his beliefs at the end of the film (later in his life). Evaluate: after watching the film and learning about Malcolm X's life do you have a different feeling about the film's opening statements?

	<b>9-10</b>	<b>8-9</b>	<b>7-8</b>	<b>6-7</b>	<b>0-6</b>
<b>Viewing Guide and Vocabulary (20 points)</b>	100-90% of the questions are answered correctly.	90-80% of the questions are answered correctly.	80-70% of the questions are answered correctly.	70-60% of the questions are answered correctly.	Less than 60% of the questions are answered correctly.
<b>Essay Questions (40 points)</b>	More than 5 specific examples from the film are used to answer the question.	At least 4 specific examples from the film are used to answer the question.	At least 3 specific examples from the film are used to answer the question.	At least 2 specific examples from the film are used to answer the question.	At least 1 specific example from the film is used to answer the question.
<b>Film Review (20 Points)</b>	Well thought out opinions on the film	Several thought out opinions	Some strong opinions but few specific	Few opinions and few specific	Weak opinions and little or no



	with specific examples.	without many specific examples.	examples from the film.	examples from the film.	specific examples from the film.
<b>Question to Filmmaker (10 Points)</b>	Very deep, thought provoking question	Deep, thought provoking question	Thought provoking question	Somewhat thought provoking question	Shallow, easily answered question
<b>Class Discussion (10 Points)</b>	Contributed 2-5 very insightful and productive comments	Contributed 2-5 insightful and productive comments	Contributed 1-2 insightful and productive comments or more than 5	Made an attempt to contribute insightful comments	Either made no attempt or attempts were negated by disruption

**Directions for grading:** Choose the amount of points you feel you deserve for each part. Multiple each by the number of points it is worth and then add them up.

**Teacher Assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Assessment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Points:** \_\_\_\_\_ /100

- 90-100      A
- 80-90        B
- 70-80        C
- 60-70        D
- 60-Below    F