

Personal Reactions and Thoughts from the video *A Class Divided...*

Write out under each quote your personal reaction and thoughts for each of the quotes from the video, *A Class Divided*.

JANE ELLIOTT: *Blue-eyed people are smarter than brown-eyed people. They are cleaner than brown-eyed people. They are more civilized than brown-eyed people.*

Jane Elliott: *Do you think a blue-eyed father would kick his son?*

My dad's blue-eyed, he's never kicked me. Ray's dad is blue-eyed, he's never kicked him. Rex's dad is blue-eyed, he's never kicked him. This is a fact. Blue-eyed people are better than brown-eyed people. Are you brown-eyed or blue-eyed?

Jane Elliott: *The brown-eyed people do not get to use the drinking fountain. You'll have to use the paper cups. You brown-eyed people are not to play with the blue-eyed people on the playground, because you are not as good as blue-eyed people. The brown-eyed people in this room today are going to wear collars. So that we can tell from a distance what color your eyes are. On page 127--one hundred twenty-seven. Is everyone ready? Everyone but Laurie. Ready, Laurie?*

Child: *She's a brown-eye.*

Jane Elliott: *She's a brown-eye. You'll begin to notice today that we spend a great deal of time waiting for brown-eyed people. The yardstick's gone, well okay. I don't see the yardstick, do you?*

Jane Elliott: *Is that the only reason? He didn't call him brown eyes yesterday and he had brown eyes yesterday. Didn't he?*

JANE ELLIOTT: *I watched what had been marvelous, cooperative, wonderful, thoughtful children turn into nasty, vicious, discriminating, little third-graders in a space of fifteen minutes.*

Jane Elliott: *Boy, do brown-eyed people learn fast. Very good. Greg, what did you do with that cup? Will you please go and get that cup and put your name on it and keep it at your desk. Blue-eyed people are wasteful. Okay. Want to be timed this morning?*

Jane Elliott: *...As I listened to the white male commentators on TV the night before I was hearing things like who's going to hold your people together, as they interviewed black leaders. What are they going to do? Who's going to control your people? As though this was--these people were subhuman and someone was going to have to step in there and control them.*

Jane Elliott: *I decided at that point that it was time to try the eye color thing, which I had thought about many, many times but had never used. So the next day I introduced an eye color exercise in my classroom and split the class according to eye color. And immediately created a microcosm of society in a third-grade classroom.*

Summary Notes for Day 1...

Write out a thorough answer for each of the following.

1. Explain what happened when the teacher divided up the students.

2. Give and discuss two reasons for the behavior of the students.

Summary Notes for Day 2

3. Explain what happened when Jane Elliott divided up the adults.

4. Give and discuss two reasons for the behavior of the adults. How was it similar and different from the young students?