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“Malcolm X”

### **SAMPLE VIDEO PAPER**

“Malcolm X” shows the life story of Malcolm Little, who later became known as Malcolm X, a leader of the Black Power movement. Malcolm X began life in poverty after his father was killed by the Ku Klux Klan, and he was taken away from his family. Malcolm grew up to deny his blackness, do drugs, work as a bookie, and have a relationship with a white woman. This eventually got him in trouble, and he went to prison. In prison, he converted to Islam, claimed his heritage, and began to live a clean life. He became a powerful leader in the Nation of Islam.

This movie is historical and takes the point of view of a black person, so it is very convincing and emotional. I felt bad for Malcolm when he was taken from his family and placed in a white school, where the teacher put him down and told him he should only become a carpenter. It was satisfying to see him rise to become a powerful person who felt good about who he was.

This movie ties in with the readings we have done on ethnic history, such as Christakes’ article and Franklin’s article. These articles talked about the impacts that slavery had on blacks and the civil rights movement. The movie is also related to Greene’s psychology article on African American families and their vulnerability. It also talks about the impacts of slavery. While Malcolm’s family was broken apart and didn’t show the strengths that Green mentions, he eventually became an example of Greene’s ideal result – a person who was able to “function in the dominant culture,” while also believing that he was worthwhile.