

DAD

That's the first reason.

MEENA

What is reason number two?

DAD

start → Reason number two is last night, there was a famous man. A good man. Who was assassinated.

MEENA

You mean like the way President Kennedy was 'us-ass-in-ated'?

DAD

Yes.

MEENA

Why was he 'us-ass-in-ated'?

DAD

He talked about liberty and justice for all.

MEENA

Isn't that part of the Pledge of Allegiance?

DAD

Yes.

MEENA

I don't understand.

DAD

He was a Negro.

MEENA

I still don't understand.

DAD

Neither do I, Meena.

MEENA

Did you know this man?

DAD

Not personally, no. But he was an orator. Like Rizal. And he was killed too. Like Rizal.

MEENA

So you woke up early because this man was us-ass-in-ated...?

DAD

I didn't know he was assassinated until I woke up. But now that I know...I have to drive to work today, and I don't know which way to go.

MEENA

Why don't you go the way you always go?

DAD

Because I have to drive through an area called Hough. And in that area last year there were riots. There may be more rioting today because of the assassination.

MEENA

Then don't go to work today, Dad. Please don't go!

DAD

I have to go, for the sake of my patients. But don't worry. I will be safe in the car.

MEENA

What about the sake of your family?

DAD

Don't worry, Iha!

MEENA

I don't want you to get hurt, Dad!

DAD stops writing and suddenly realizes MEENA is upset. He speaks more authoritatively by way of comforting MEENA]

DAD

End → Meena. Don't worry. For one thing, we are neither Caucasian, nor are we Negro. This is not our battle to fight!

MEENA

I still think you shouldn't go into work today.

DAD

And second, your Mu-MAH and I are physicians. We have a duty to attend to our patients. People respect that. We are protected by their respect.

MEENA

Even though we're not white?

DAD

Yes.

MEENA

So they won't hurt you if you're near where the riots happen?

DAD

I won't go where the riots happen!

MEENA

But you don't know where they'll happen! They could happen anywhere! Please don't go, Dad!

DAD

Meena. The rioting happens in places where people are angry because they are poor and they are not being treated with respect because of the color of their skin.

MEENA

We're not poor...are we?

DAD

We live in Middleton Heights! You should thank God every day. We are not rich. But we are not poor.