Aren’t we all born equal? Think again!
Based on the book Shame of the Nation by Jonathan Kozol
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Introduction
Chapter 1 introduces the main characters in the story, Jonathan Kozol, who is narrating the story, and Pineapple, an unfortunate teen who Jonathan meets while visiting schools across the districts. Jonathan develops a strong friendship with Pineapple over the years and is disheartened by the circumstances in which Pineapple must live in and be schooled in.

Characters/Setting

Main Characters: 
Jonathan Kozol 
Pineapple

Settings:
The South Bronx 
St. Mary park 
P.S. 65

Time:
1994 (Kozol meets pineapple) 
1997 (Kozol meets pineapple again) 
April 2000 (current)

Chronological Events
Pineapple was getting new teachers who did not know how to teach and were cursing at the students. “50 members of the faculty in the preceding year, 28 had never taught before; and half of them were fired or did not return the following September” (pgs. 13-14)
“‘used swear words’ to subdue the children” (p. 14)

Pineapple referred to “white people” as “other people” when speaking with Jonathan because she didn’t want to sound rude.
“I didn’t try to press her further about who she meant by ‘other people’ after that. I think she felt it would be rude to say ‘white people’...” (page 16)

When Jonathan took some students shopping with him in Manhattan, the children often felt afraid because they felt as if they were in a different world in a predominantly white area.
“In racial terms, they’re almost totally cut off” (pg. 17)

Findings

- The schools named after civil rights activists, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., are among the most segregated schools.

- The teaching field is a predominantly white field (according to National Center for Education Statistics).

Quote:
“It’s as if you have been in a garage where, if they dont have room for something but arent sure if they should throw it out, they put it where they dont need to think of it again (Isabel, p.28)

- Symbolizes the way Isabel understood the racial segregation in her school and neighborhood.