

## Parents Transcript

Parents Shaniqua & Dwayne White & Yajaira Cruz were shocked to hear that their young sons were aware of the word nigger and that they had to explain that it was a bad word and they weren't even pre-teens.

SW: Talik came home from school and he came up to me and said, "Mommy, you know this boy in my class said the n-word." He didn't say the whole word, he just said, "the n-word", and I told him that it was a bad word and a lot of people fought hard not to be called that word and he shouldn't use it. It's not good. From the on, he never used it because we don't go around the house calling each other the n-word.

YC: We were all talking, and I don't remember how he said it, or what he said, I think it was something like, "What's Up Nigger or Nigger something," or something like that. I told him not to say that. I said, "Don't use that word outside!" Because of the environment and we were outside, it offended me and I didn't want to hear him talking like that.

DW: I let him know off the top, that's a bad word. Do not say that. Actually, if he was older, his late teens saying' it. I'd pull him to the side, and his friends and ask them how are they using the word, and how do they feel about it.

YC: As far as teaching him about the n-word, I do want to teach him not just the n-word but about slavery itself and what we all went through. I wanna change how everything is looked at, how we're looked at.

DW: I feel a lot kids don't know the history behind the n-word, most kids are using it just as a regular word. Even if white man called them that in a disrespectful way, they wouldn't even know.

SW: Then you gotta sit them down and let them watch Roots!