

Discussion Questions for *Akeelah and the Bee*
(based on a true story of a girl from Washington DC)

Some of the major characters to watch for: Akeelah Anderson, Dr. Larabee, Tanya Anderson, (Akeelah's mother), Javier Mendez, Dylan Chiu, Mr. Chiu, Principal Welch

1. What pathways to excellence did you see in the story? In other words, what specifically did Akeelah and her coach do to improve her performance?
2. Comment on Dr. Larabee's leadership. Comment also on the leadership of Akeelah's mother (Tanya) and Dylan's father (Mr. Chiu).
3. What, if anything, is the connection between fear and performance? Try to go beyond a superficial answer.
4. What are your major take-aways from this story regarding excellence, simplicity or anything else?