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“Man, how many times do I have to tell you I’m Puerto Rican!”
Omar leaned forward again.

Levi rolled his eyes. “Okay, okay.” Omar leaned back again, but I kept staring at Levi. He hadn’t answered my question yet. Levi glanced at me briefly and finally explained, “I just don’t see the different races.” He looked back at the road. “I see us all as the same. I was shocked when my uncle tore into me about how I could be so stupid and mean. He even said I was blind to race issues. Which is bull! I had only treated you like any other of my white friends. Suddenly, *I’m* the bad guy? I don’t get it.”

I couldn’t believe what I had just heard. Omar stayed silent, so I knew he was thinking the same thing I was. Bottom line, Levi was blind. But he was also in Bent Rays, and we were on our way to our first gig. I glanced back at Omar, who was always quick to set people straight. I knew he would have the right words. But Omar just shrugged his shoulders and shook his head. He wasn’t going there. It was up to me. Great!

“You’re right.” I finally said. “You don’t get it.”

Levi frowned but kept his eyes on the road. “Which part? My uncle or race issues.”

“Race issues,” I answered. Levi shook his head and started to open his mouth, but I cut him off. “Hear me out!”

The font spacing and size are easily readable yet still appropriate for the intended audience.

Free reading guides provide question and reflection prompts, drawing from background knowledge, to engage in discussion or writing opportunities. For example:

Levi’s uncle Officer Evans had told Levi that he was blind to race issues. Why was this so hard for Levi to believe?

Plots contain relevant and relatable themes and topics, such as race issues and cultural differences.

Simple sentence structure and fast-paced plots keep readers engaged and improve reading fluency.

Short chapters promote a quicker pace and help keep students engaged.

