

Students read the paragraphs then discuss and answer the questions.

1. Many women are postponing having children until their careers are well established. My neighbor, a 33 year old woman, has just started her own commercial real estate firm. She has made the decision to postpone having children until her company is well established. Her mother, and especially her grandmother are very disappointed. They are proud of her commercial success, but they want grandchildren. It is creating family discord.

In addition, sometimes women find that if they postpone having children too long, it is difficult to get pregnant. My niece finally got pregnant at the age of 43. She and her husband spent a lot of money trying various techniques to get pregnant.

Do you have this situation in your country? Are there many mothers delaying childbirth? Is fertility a problem for these women? What is your personal feeling about this situation? Do you think the parents and grandparents have a right to demand grandchildren?

2. In the news recently, Rachel Dolezal, president of an NAACP chapter in Washington, who has been living as a black woman, was exposed as a white woman. Here are some excerpts from an article written by an actual black woman about Dolezal. Read and discuss. Tell the meaning of the underlined words. Ask about any words you don't understand.

We know this not because of any misstep Dolezal made—she was essentially flawless in executing her ruse—but because her biological parents, from whom she's been estranged for years, decided to go on television and announce it.

The whole thing might be a non-story if our long and twisted history of passing, which has roots that can be traced back to our country's very foundation, weren't understood to operate in only one direction. Some very fair black people, as a refuge from racism and persecution, have passed for a long time.

But Dolezal confounds our understanding of how passing is supposed to work. How many white people, given anonymity, would take the opportunity to become black? No one, if they answered honestly. White privilege is a precious commodity.

Which is why Dolezal fascinates us. She flipped the script, and instead was committed to being black, going to great pains to make it so.

Questions:

Many black people are insulted by Dolezal's actions. They feel like she was trying to steal their culture. They wonder why she felt she needed to pass as black when she could have easily served in the NAACP as a white person. How do you feel about this? Can a person just change their identity? Would you ever forsake your own culture to adopt the culture of another race?

Fill in the blank with the correct verb tense. The verb is given in parenthesis.

1. Abraham Lincoln's famous speeches ____ (engrave) on the interior walls of the Lincoln Memorial.
2. The Oval Office, ____ (situate) in the White House, is the office of the President of the United States.
3. Lake Michigan, the third largest of the Great Lakes, ____ (be) the only one of the lakes entirely within the United States.
4. Mount Everest, the highest elevation in the world, ____ (first scale) in 1953 by members of an expedition including Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay.
5. The Mississippi River, which is the chief river of the United States, ____ (flow) to the Gulf of Mexico.
6. The Air and Space Museum ____ (dedicate) to the history and development of air and space technology.

7. Ernest Hemingway was a famous American writer who ____ (win) the 1954 Nobel Prize for literature.
8. Do you know that Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, ____ (head) by a mayor?
9. The Washington Monument ____ (build) in honor of George Washington, the first president of the United States.
10. If you visit the Lincoln Memorial, you will see a giant statue of Lincoln ____ (dominate) the center of the Memorial.
11. Broadway is the longest street in the world. It ____ (extend) from the southern tip of Manhattan to Albany.
12. Queen Victoria ____ (be) the first sovereign to reside in Buckingham Palace.
13. The telephone ____ (invent) by the Scottish-born American inventor Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.
14. The first heart transplant ____ (perform) on December 3, 1967 by Dr. Christian Barnard in Cape Town, South Africa.
15. The Oval Office, ____ (situate) in the White House, is the office of the President of the United States.