

“Existing While Black”

A Worksheet for ESOL Learners

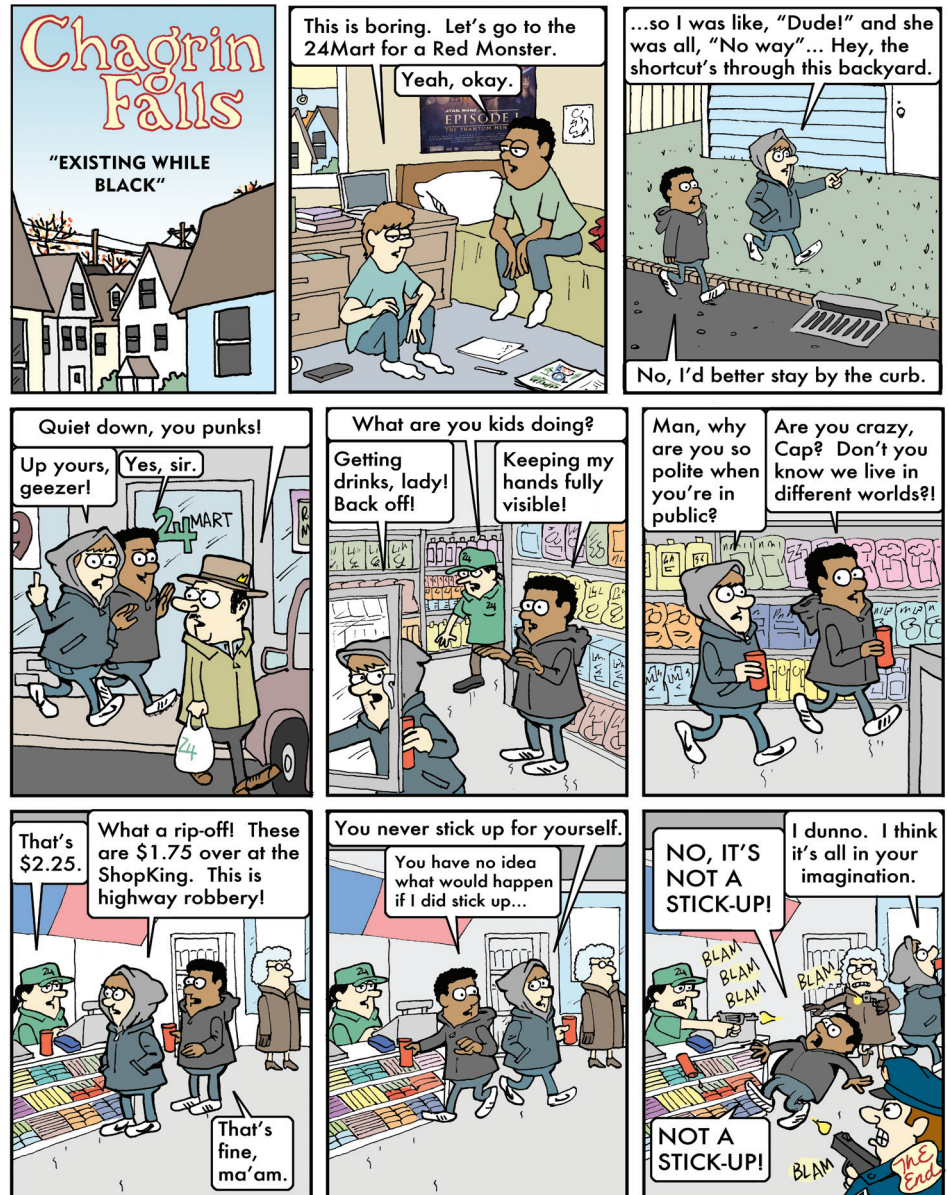
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BEFORE YOU READ

PART 1:

LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

1. **Shortcut:** a quicker and more direct way of getting somewhere than the usual one (noun)
Example: I take a shortcut to avoid the traffic.
2. **A rip-off:** something that is too expensive; not worth it (noun)
Example: That water is \$3.00 for a small bottle. It's a rip-off!
3. **A stick up:** when someone tries to rob a place or person by using a gun, knife, or other weapon (noun)
Example: There was a stick up at the bank across the street. A man came with a gun and asked for all of the money.
4. **To stick up for:** to support or defend (phrasal verb)
Example: She sticks up for her sister when their brother is not nice.



This cartoon is printed on p. 5 of Issue #42 of The Change Agent. Used with permission by Ruben Bolling <tomthedancingbug.com>.

PART 2: PRACTICE THE NEW EXPRESSIONS

1. Do you take any shortcuts to get to school? What are they?
2. Do you know shortcuts near your house?
3. How have you learned different shortcuts?
4. Who sticks up for you?
5. Describe a situation when someone has stuck up for you.
6. Describe a situation when you stuck up for someone else.
7. Who do you stick up for?
8. What are some common places where stick ups happen?
9. Have you seen a stick up happen before?
10. Do you think that Whole Foods is a rip-off? Why or why not?
11. What items at stores do you think are rip-offs?
12. Do you think that college classes are a rip-off? Why or why not?
13. Do you think bottled water is a rip-off? Why or why not?

PART 3: VOCABULARY

Punk: a young person who fights and breaks the law (noun)

Geezer: offensive slang word for an old person (noun)

Man: used to emphasize what you are saying, especially when you are angry, surprised, disappointed etc. (interjection)

Ma'am: contraction of polite word, madam. Madam is a formal word for a woman, usually used in a store by a person who doesn't know her.

Curb: the edge of a road, between where people can walk and cars can drive (noun)

PART 4: MORE EXPRESSIONS AND SLANG

No way: no! Emphasis on no.

Up yours: offensive slang. Short for 'put something up your butt.'

Back off: to move away, usually because a person is scared (phrasal verb)

Highway robbery: a situation when a person is charged too much money (noun)

AFTER YOU READ

PART 1: FOCUS ON THE BASICS OF THE PIECE

1. What kind of reading is this?

- | | |
|----------------------|------------|
| a. Newspaper article | c. book |
| b. Comic strip | d. cartoon |

2. What is the title of the reading?

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Chagrin Falls | c. Tom the Dancing Bug |
| b. Stick up | d. "Existing while Black" |

3. Who are the two main people in the pictures?

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| a. Children | c. youth |
| b. Grandparents | d. teachers |

4. What do the people decide to do?

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| a. Go to a restaurant | c. go to school |
| b. Go to the store | d. go to a move |

PART 2: FOCUS ON LANGUAGE

1. 24Mart is the name of a
 - a. Movie
 - b. Drink
 - c. car
 - d. store
2. Red Monster is the name of a
 - a. Movie
 - b. Drink
 - c. car
 - d. store
3. What word is polite?
 - a. Dude
 - b. Punk
 - c. geezer
 - d. sir
4. The expressions “stick up for yourself” and “a stick up” mean
 - a. The same thing
 - b. No
 - c. different things
 - d. to put something in the air

PART 3: FOCUS ON MEANING

1. Explain how two youth behave similarly or differently from each other.
2. What happens in the fourth picture?
3. Why?
4. In the 5th picture, the black youth says, “Don’t you know we live in different worlds?!” What does he mean?
5. What happens in the last picture?
6. Why?