

Older People Talk Nonsense? Now I Know Better!

Nyasia Coleman

BEFORE YOU READ:

1. Read the title and the subtitle. What do you think the “arc” of this story will be?
2. Talk about a time you had a judgment about a certain type of person (or group of people), and then you found out you were wrong about them.

Now I love being in class with older people. But that was not always true.

When I started class, I was going through a very bad time. I was thinking of not coming back. One of the older ladies heard about my problems. She told me a story that changed my mind. I listened to her and decided to stay in the GED class.

Before that, I never spoke to older people. I always thought they talked a bunch of nonsense. I learned from being in class with them not to judge a book by its cover.

I am glad I started this class. I met a lot of good people who help me out and keep me on track.

AFTER YOU READ:

1. According to Nyasia, what changed for her in her judgment of older people?
2. What does it mean to “not judge a book by its cover”? Do you have a saying like that in your native language? If so, what is it?
3. Read the story on p. 24. What are the perspectives of the two writers? What is similar and what is different about the two stories?



Nyasia Coleman, a student from the Bronx, NY.



Share some wisdom or inspiration you have gotten from an older person. (This is an AI-generated image from Rawpixel.com.)

Nyasia Coleman comes from the Bronx. She takes care of her grandmother and is enrolled in a job training program. At night, she attends GED classes at the Mid-Manhattan Learning Center #5 in New York. This article was originally published in [Issue #34](#) of The Change Agent.