

LÖSUNGEN: 2 Being Black in "The Child": The Absent Father

1. Two thirds of African American boys are raised by single mothers. As they are the principal earners who often work in unqualified jobs, several of these single parent families live on a tight budget.
As a result, the children are often left to themselves, which might be one reason for the fairly high rate of school dropouts among Black teenagers. Only half of African American boys graduate from high school. There are also significantly less bachelors' degrees taken by African American men than by White men.
Due to this lack of equal opportunities, the danger of street life, including the use of drugs, is more present than for white teenagers. There is still a high rate of African American men who are imprisoned.
Both authors strongly regret the lack of male role models (apart from rappers, athletes) and emphasize their necessity for African American teenagers. According to M. Lynch one measure would be to increase of the numbers of Black schoolteachers.

2. *Individual answers are possible for Philip's interior monologue.*
Make sure that you stick to the characteristic aspects of an interior monologue:
When thinking about this new situation he finds himself in, Philip might be very emotional. His sentences may not be complete since he keeps jumping from one thought or idea to the next. He probably uses slang expressions and exclamations.

These are possible versions:

- a) Wow, I cannot believe it, I fathered a child?! I'm gonna be a daddy? Daddy?!? That's something. Oh man ... Karen will have a child, my child. Crazy news. But I ain't gonna be nobody's husband, I won't live with her ... them. It's hard enough right now. Well, what about the others, Pete and Jo – living with their girls? None of them. Did I have a father? Who of us had a father at home? Can't even feed them, no way I'll get a decent job – who of us is still at school? What a joke. Hardly anybody and now being a father having to feed a *family*. That's never been the plan. It's just not *my* world. But Karen won't be alone, she's got her mom, her friends, they know the problem, other women found a way out of it, too.

- b) Me – a father? I'm too young, I can't start a family now. I guess it would be kind of fair and only right to look after them though .. look at me!? How to feed them? Where to take the money from? And even if I get more involved with selling rock ... I'd never be able to go back to school. See all these teachers again, Ms Davis and Ms Gomez ... and even if I did, it would be ages till I graduate and then just to go on to do some sort of training? I'd be without the rest of all of them. And who does pay for me? Gosh no, I think, Karen will have to care for the kid, unless she ... oh but she'll never do that. And probably she wants to go to this school for fashion? Maybe I can keep in touch with them after all.