



students  
r\_build

# HUNGER CHALLENGE

## KADI AND TONY'S STORY

HARLEM, NEW YORK CITY

2019-2020 UPPER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL  
DISCUSSION GUIDE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

GETTING STARTED	p. 1
KADI AND TONY'S STORY	p. 2
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	p. 3
VIDEO TRANSCRIPT	p. 5
HUNGER CHALLENGE OVERVIEW	p. 7
TAKE ACTION	p. 8

# GETTING STARTED

## EDUCATOR NOTE:

Below is an introduction to Kadi and Tony's Story, as well as discussion questions to use with your class. You may utilize all or some of the provided questions as you guide your class in discussion.

### Standards Alignment:

- Asia Society Global Competencies
- 21st Century Skills
- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Video Length: 4.01 minutes

Estimated Time to Complete: 1-3 Class Periods

We recommend that ahead of showing the video to your students you (a) pre-watch the video or read the transcript below, noting any vocabulary or concepts that may be unfamiliar to your students and (b) review the unfamiliar words with your students before showing the video.



Kadi and Tony's Story  
4.01 minutes

# KADI AND TONY'S STORY

## FRAMING

Harlem is an urban community in the northern part of Manhattan, one of the five boroughs in New York City. Harlem is a vibrant neighborhood with a rich history of African-American art and culture. Harlem is also home to families that have experienced multi-generational poverty, high unemployment rates, limited access to healthcare, and high levels of food insecurity.

In Harlem, you will find an abundance of fast food restaurants, as well as newer, high-end restaurants. Despite the many food establishments, for many residents, Harlem is considered to be a food desert, due to the lack of access to healthy and affordable foods.

Urban farming is one way to address food deserts and increase access to healthy foods. Through urban farming, neighborhood residents grow, package and distribute food to community members in community gardens. Community gardens provide individuals and families with education on nutrition and healthy lifestyles, while also creating alternative ways to get healthy food that don't rely on traditional systems of food production and distribution.

In the past two decades, Harlem has seen changes in its community. People with more economic resources have moved into the neighborhood, and more costly, health-oriented food venues have also sprung up. For the families whose roots are in Harlem, urban farming represents a key strategy for creating less costly access to healthy food.

In *Kadi and Tony's Story* we learn about Harlem Grown, a local community garden in which school children grow food to feed the community.

*Kadi and Tony's Story* will inspire students to consider the complexities of urban food systems and the power of community gardening to address disparities in food access, ultimately creating opportunities for urban dwellers to live healthy lifestyles.

# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Please Note:** You may utilize all or some of the provided questions as you guide your class in discussion. Many of the questions below can be used as a jumping off point for deeper engagement or projects.

1. Harlem is a neighborhood in New York City, known for its history and African-American culture.

Describe the images of Harlem that you see in the video. How are those images similar to or different from where you live?

2. Kadi describes Harlem as a 'food desert'. How does she define food desert?
3. Kadi notes the availability of fast food in her neighborhood. What does she think about fast food? What do you think about fast food? What are the risks of eating fast food or unhealthy foods regularly?
4. In discussing the priorities of parents in Harlem, Tony Hillery says that "a lot of our parents are working two and three jobs and are doing the best they can."

How does Harlem Grown help the children of parents with multiple jobs access healthy food?

5. We know that many people in Harlem lack access to healthy and affordable foods. What are some of the ways that Harlem Grown helps individual children? Individual families? The greater Harlem community?
6. Harlem Grown is described as a community garden. How would you define "community garden?"



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**7.** What are some of the activities you see happening in the garden? Who is participating in those activities? Who is leading those activities?

**8.** While communities like Harlem can face many economic challenges, there are individuals who work to create positive change.

What inspired Tony Hillery to start Harlem Grown? Why is it important that community members create local solutions to global problems?

**9.** Tony Hillery says that he decided to clean up an abandoned lot and youth came by to help. Why do you think these young students volunteered to clean up an abandoned lot without anyone asking them to do so?

**10.** What are the benefits of growing your own food? How do people in neighborhoods like Harlem benefit from community gardens?

**11.** In the video, Tony Hillery says that Harlem Grown is "growing healthy children and sustainable communities."

What do you think he means by "growing healthy children"?

How does growing fruits, vegetables and herbs help children grow to be healthy?

What does sustainable mean?

How does growing fruits, vegetables and herbs make communities sustainable?

**12.** What are the benefits to learning about healthy eating as a young person? How can young people help their parents and other people in their community make healthy food choices?

**13.** If you wanted to improve access to healthy food in communities that lack such access, what would you do to intervene?

# VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

## KADI AND TONY'S STORY

---

Time	Speaker	Dialogue
00:00:19	Kadi	<p>My name is Kadi. I am 17 years old and I am from Harlem, New York City. Harlem is a bit of a food desert. A food desert is a place where there is not a lot of access to affordable and healthy foods. We're surrounded by so many fast food chains that you don't need to walk very far to find a fried chicken spot, for example, or a pizza spot, and get a slice for like a dollar. A lot of people go to these places because they're cheaper than the supermarkets. That's what is convenient and available to us for an affordable price.</p>
00:00:50	Tony	<p>A lot of our parents are working two and three jobs and they're doing the best they can. She's worrying about a roof over her head, where she's going tomorrow and so many other issues before we even get to food and education. In this environment, education and nutrition sometime takes a back seat to survival.</p>
00:01:09		<p>My name is Tony Hillery. I'm the Founder, Executive Director of Harlem Grown.</p>
00:01:13	Kadi	<p>When I was in third grade, across the street was this vacant lot. A lot of feral cats were there, bats. People would try and avoid that side of the street because they felt unsafe. Mr. Tony was a volunteer at my school and he noticed that there was an issue. He got the idea to start a community garden.</p>
00:01:33	Tony	<p>One day I just got on the subway and got off the train at 135th and Lenox and this school was right there and I walked in off the street and said, 'I'm here to help.' And they said, 'Help with what?' I didn't know. I'm in the lunch room with children and we're just talking, and a little girl told me tomatoes grow in the supermarket because she saw them on the vine in the produce section. And I thought she was joking, and she was 100% serious. And I started hanging out on the lunch room and one thing led to another, here I am nine years later. There was an abandoned community garden right across the street. I started cleaning it, the kids came over started helping me clean it out. And then a little girl was like, 'Why don't we plant something?' That's how it happened.</p>

# VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

## KADI AND TONY'S STORY

---

Time	Speaker	Dialogue
00:02:16	Kadi	We learned about planting. What goes on when you're planting a seed. We learned what's inside soil. We also learned about composting and recycling. And how does that coincide with healthy produce or healthy foods or clean foods.
00:02:36	Kadi	There's more to food than what you eat and what you see on T.V.. You have to go out and look for that information yourself. Once there's something that sparks that interest, you can never look at food the same way either.
00:02:53	Tony	Everyone sees beautiful green and red fruits. That's what you see. Yes, we plant seeds in the ground. But we grow healthy children and sustainable communities.
00:03:05	Kadi	My family, like many other families, we do have the same struggles of trying to figure out how much money should be allotted to groceries. Often times, they're forced to make decisions that in the long run affects their health. Quality of life just goes down. I believe that everyone should have access to a healthy lifestyle. A healthy lifestyle shouldn't be something that's associated with privilege. Since when is quality produce a luxury.
00:03:38		It makes me feel happy and proud to see that Harlem Grown has been able to reach out to more people and more kids in the community.



# CHALLENGE OVERVIEW

## OVERVIEW

Hunger has many faces. Sometimes hunger is heartbreakingly obvious. Other times, it's less visible but no less destructive. With 821 million people (or one in nine) suffering from hunger globally (one in five in the United States), the faces of hunger are all around us.

With the Hunger Challenge, we're gathering around a global table to learn about hunger in all its guises—malnutrition, food insecurity, “food deserts,” and more—and to investigate how hunger interferes with education and development to prevent too many young people from living full, healthy lives.

## GLOBAL NOMADS GROUP

Global Nomads Group (GNG) is an international non-profit organization that fosters dialogue and understanding among the world's youth. Since its founding in 1998, GNG has conducted programs in 60 countries on all seven continents, reaching one million young people. By providing opportunities to interact and engage with different perspectives, GNG helps youth break down stereotypes, address community challenges, develop 21st century skills, and explore what it means to be a global citizen.

Since 2010, GNG and Students Rebuild have partnered on each annual Challenge, bringing awareness to critical global issues and youth stories of taking action.

## STUDENTS REBUILD

Students Rebuild, a program of the Bezos Family Foundation, is a free, ready-made adventure in global learning that asks students to put their creativity and compassion to work in support of other young people in need.

Students Rebuild issues an annual Challenge that invites students to respond to global problems affecting young people somewhere in the world. Teachers and students explore the issue in class and, in the process, connect with students around the globe. Then students create art based on what they learn and send it to Students Rebuild. For every piece of artwork they submit, the Bezos Family Foundation makes a financial donation to a respected community-based organization serving youth.

# TAKE ACTION

## TAKE ACTION

Thank you for participating in the 2019-20 Students Rebuild Hunger Challenge, which invites teachers and students worldwide to help end world hunger and celebrate healthy and sustainable food traditions around the world.

### CREATE AN ARTFUL RECIPE

Students will create artfully illustrated recipes—both literal and imaginative.

With these two unique approaches you can find countless ways to bring your recipes to life. Each artful recipe will generate a \$3 donation from the Bezos Family Foundation to support organizations that address hunger and nutrition

Register a team, learn about building an artful recipe, and submit your artwork at [studentsrebuild.org/hunger](https://studentsrebuild.org/hunger)

### JOIN THE CONVERSATION

As part of the Hunger Challenge, Global Nomads Group will be hosting three virtual webcast discussions (dates to be announced). The webcasts will be live-streamed events that feature conversations around food, culture, and hunger. Your class/team can submit questions and/or answers to the on-air participants through a facilitated chat room. All you need to join is an Internet connection.

Register for webcasts at [gng.org/studentsrebuild](https://gng.org/studentsrebuild)

Learn More about Harlem Grown: [harlemgrown.org](https://harlemgrown.org)