

breaks his chains and attempts an escape. Captured by Ames, Kunta is whipped into submission and forced to say that his name is "Toby".



KIZZY

SHOW NO. 3 -- The year is 1776 and the adult Kunta has lost none of his rebellious will. His final escape attempt costs him his right foot, and the crippled slave is nursed back to health by a slave woman called Bell on the plantation of his second owner. Two years later, Kunta is the plantation master's personal wagon-driver, and is learning the secrets that slaves and servants always know -- such as the affair between the owner and his brother's wife. Soon, with the encouragement of the wise Fiddler, Kunta and Bell are married, and Kunta passes up his last chance at escape because of the birth of his daughter, Kizzy.

Kunta, 30 years old, has adjusted to his life as a slave without losing his desire to be free again, without forgetting his strong African heritage. Under cover of darkness, he conceals himself in a wagon and escapes.

As he makes his way across the country, he encounters Fanta. His joy at this reunion is tempered by the change in her. She has sold out. She has made the complete adjustment to her status in the white world, a docile slave. Kunta stays too long and is taken by pursuing slave catchers. They make sure he will never run away again by amputating his right foot at the arch. His screams of anguish are heard in the distance by Fanta, who gives no sign of compassion.

When Kunta regains consciousness, he is in the cabin of a slave woman, Bell, the chief cook in the household of the slave master. Bell has fallen in love with Kunta while nursing him back to health. She knows nothing of Africa and wants Kunta to put it out of his mind. Kunta is reluctant to forsake his heritage.

Kunta marries Bell. Soon after he meets a drummer from Africa and once again his emotions about his homeland are stirred and his longing for freedom renewed. The drummer tells him about the abolitionists in the North.

Bell and Kunta become the parents of a daughter, which they name Kizzy, an African word for "stay put." Kunta decides to name Kizzy in the full Mandinka style, the way he was named. In an open field, holding Kizzy up to the star-filled night sky, he proclaims, "Behold, the only thing greater than yourself." At that same moment he hears the sound of the drum -- the signal that the time has come to escape.

He decides to stay, and over the sleeping infant, he begins the family history, the roll call that will continue for 200 years:

"You are the daughter of the African, Kunta Kinte, of the village of Juffere, on the banks of the Kamby Bolongo. The father of Kinte was the Mandinka warrior, Omoro..."

SHOW NO. 4 -- In 1806 Kizzy helps a young slave run away. As punishment she must be sold, and she is rejected even by her one white friend. The horror of separation from her family is magnified a thousandfold when she is immediately raped by her new owner. Eighteen years pass and Kizzy is now the mother of a youth who will be called Chicken George, sired by her owner, Tom Moore. The master of the grubby "plantation" raises fighting roosters, and he is visited by another "sporting man", Mr. Bennett, who wants to buy Chicken George, a superb trainer. At the same time, Bennett's slave wants to marry Kizzy, but George's owner won't sell George to Bennett, and Kizzy will not marry away from her son. When Kizzy cautions her son against trusting Massa Moore, Chicken George tells her "he's like a daddy to me."



CHICKEN GEORGE



Kids don't know any better.

None of us are born prejudiced.

It's something we have to learn.

But if we can learn to hate, we can also learn to un-hate. Simply by trying to understand the Other Side. Then, maybe we can all start acting like kids again.

This message is from all the kids at U.S. Bank.

