

## Identity Video Transcript

0:01

identity and roots in the movie roots we

00:04

follow the journey of Kunta Kinte an

00:06

African born man who gets abducted and

00:08

forced into slavery as we follow him we

00:11

watch as he struggles with maintaining

00:13

his identity as an African Freeborn man

00:15

while being forced into the American

00:17

slave trade

00:18

not only does Kunta Kinte get renamed by

00:20

his master but he's also ripped away

00:22

from his family and forced to go through

00:23

many challenging changes as he becomes a

00:26

slave how names affect identity in the

00:31

opening scene of the television series

00:33

roots we see with the birth of Kunta

00:35

Kinte after his birth we follow his

00:37

father Amaro as he tries to find the

00:39

perfect name for his firstborn son in

00:41

the African village there is certain

00:43

naming ceremony that takes place it is

00:45

the Mandinka people's belief that a

00:47

child will take on seven characteristics  
00:49  
of the thing or person that they are  
00:50  
named after on the eighth day of the  
00:53  
child's life they will be given their  
00:54  
name great care is put into choosing the  
00:57  
name of the child because it will play a  
00:59  
key role in who they are and what they  
01:00  
become after Kunta Kinte is abducted he  
01:05  
is brought to America and sold to master  
01:07  
Reynolds the auctioneer tells master  
01:09  
Reynolds that he must give his slate his  
01:11  
new slave a name and even suggest that  
01:13  
he go along with the new fad and give  
01:15  
the slave of mythological name master  
01:17  
Reynolds pays no mind to the  
01:19  
auctioneer's suggestion and promptly  
01:21  
asks his other slave fiddler if they  
01:23  
already have a slave named George  
01:24  
fiddler reminds master that they do  
01:26  
already have a George an instantly  
01:28  
master Reynolds gives Kunta Kinte the  
01:30  
new name of Toby  
01:31  
at first he rejects this name but he  
01:34

because he is still Kunta Kinte and  
01:36  
doesn't want to give up who he is  
01:37  
eventually he wears down and becomes a  
01:40  
good slave in the eyes of master  
01:41  
Reynolds Kunta Kinte still has his  
01:43  
African Spirit in his heart but at this  
01:45  
point he has realized he had to break  
01:47  
down and accept his new identity as a  
01:49  
slave in the end of the third episode  
01:53  
Kunta kinte's wife Belle gives birth to  
01:56  
their daughter and he decides on the  
01:58  
named Kizzy for their child while giving  
02:00  
her this name he explains to Belle that  
02:03  
he chose Kizzy because it is the  
02:04  
Mandinka word for stay put he further  
02:06  
explains that Kizzy will always stay  
02:08  
with them but it does not mean that she  
02:10  
always has to stay a slave Kunta Kinte  
02:12  
also decided  
02:13  
continue his Mandinka culture through  
02:15  
Kizzy by doing the same naming ceremony  
02:17  
that his father performed with him and  
02:19  
teaching her of her African heritage by  
02:22

doing these actions Kunta Kinte is  
02:24  
showing his true identity as a Mandinka  
02:26  
man even though he has had that life  
02:28  
ripped away he is still holding on to  
02:30  
his African roots Kunta Kinte finds  
02:36  
family to be a huge aspect of his life  
02:38  
from having a family in West Africa to  
02:40  
having his own family in America as we  
02:43  
know every family has its own story  
02:45  
Kunta Kinte story has been rough ever  
02:47  
since he was captured in West Africa  
02:52  
Kunta was taken from his family due to  
02:54  
his capture in becoming a slave Kunta  
02:56  
was very close to his father immortal  
02:58  
and saw him as a role model from  
03:00  
immortal Kunta learned everything from  
03:01  
hunting taking care of sheep and  
03:03  
learning everyday lessons with him Kunta  
03:06  
also had a little brother who he wanted  
03:07  
to teach many things like his father  
03:09  
taught him in West Africa he was also a  
03:12  
part of another family called the  
03:13  
Mandinka warriors this is a group of  
03:15

young teenagers who are trained to  
03:17  
become men and protect their village  
03:19  
the madlenka village these young men  
03:21  
turned out to be like family as their  
03:23  
training advances conserva is his family  
03:26  
so much and we do and would do anything  
03:27  
for them when Kunta reaches America and  
03:32  
his soul he starts getting close to  
03:33  
fiddler another slave who was born into  
03:35  
slavery fiddler is left with the  
03:37  
challenge of breaking Kunta and toy  
03:38  
slave he starts getting a soft spot for  
03:41  
Kunta since he knows it's hard and  
03:43  
wonders what it is to be free fiddler  
03:45  
was supposed to be teaching Kunta  
03:47  
English working in the field and many  
03:49  
other things but it turns out that not  
03:51  
only did cuenca learn new things but so  
03:53  
did fiddler fiddler starts becoming a  
03:54  
father figure for Kunta since he is  
03:56  
teaching him things like learning new  
03:58  
lessons and giving him advices on  
04:00  
different situations like running away  
04:03

furthering Kunta don't have much in  
04:05  
common but they do provide comfort for  
04:07  
each other when they need it starting a  
04:10  
new family might have been hard for  
04:12  
Kunta but it wasn't that he will never  
04:15  
regret Kunta saw so many things in Belle  
04:17  
as he got to know her like the way she  
04:18  
motivated him and wanted the best for  
04:20  
him they then started to like each other  
04:22  
it got married and had a daughter named  
04:24  
Kizzy which means they put both ball in  
04:26  
Kunta  
04:27  
through so much Belle had her own family  
04:29  
at once and got it taken away because of  
04:31  
her ex-husband's attempt of escape Kunta  
04:36  
also had his family taken away from him  
04:38  
making the decision was difficult for  
04:39  
both them due to their families being  
04:41  
taken away from them in such a terrible  
04:43  
way now that they have both gone through  
04:45  
this horrifying experience they will try  
04:47  
their best to remain together as a  
04:49  
family one major theme was changed Kunta  
04:54

faced many obstacles starting at such a  
04:56  
young age but he managed to remain  
04:57  
hopeful throughout all of them Kunta was  
04:59  
one of the most courageous characters  
05:01  
within roots he made everything possible  
05:03  
no matter how dangerous it could have  
05:05  
possibly been Kunta Kinte has gone  
05:09  
through many phases throughout roots and  
05:10  
he has brought me along his adventure I  
05:12  
got to watch Kunta go grow from a young  
05:15  
boy into a strong Mandinka warrior Kunta  
05:18  
Kinte went through three stages that  
05:20  
identify the characteristics of change  
05:22  
the first stage Kunta went through was  
05:24  
refusal as Kunta was being kidnapped  
05:26  
from his homeland he put up a fight  
05:28  
until he could no longer withstand the  
05:30  
slave hunters anymore this led to Kunta  
05:32  
then being sold to a slave master slave  
05:35  
master Reynolds tried to rename Kunta  
05:36  
Kinte but he refused to be called by the  
05:39  
name Toby it didn't have any meaning  
05:41  
compared to the name given to him by his  
05:43

father the new name degraded Kunta and  
05:45  
what he stood for as a Mandinka warrior  
05:47  
his slave master and feather tried  
05:49  
breaking him while forcing him into  
05:50  
slavery but he wouldn't budge he did not  
05:53  
want to end up just like fiddler because  
05:54  
he knew his worth this leads to the next  
05:58  
stage realization Kunta began realizing  
06:01  
that nothing would be the same again  
06:02  
once he finally found Fanta Fanta was a  
06:05  
completely different person she forced  
06:07  
herself to forget her own language she  
06:09  
once spoke changed her name to Maggie  
06:11  
and didn't want to escape the plantation  
06:13  
she was on like she once did before she  
06:17  
was brainwashed and broken something  
06:19  
Kunta never would expect it from her but  
06:21  
it happened Kunta never thought his life  
06:23  
would turn out the way it has but he  
06:25  
accepts it for what it is he moves on  
06:28  
and starts his own family with Belle and  
06:30  
his newborn daughter kissing Kunta has  
06:33  
now reached the last phase acceptance he  
06:36



accepts the fact that he will never  
06:38  
return home to his village and family so  
06:40  
he has created his own  
06:41  
on the plantation he now knows as home  
06:43  
he refuses to never lose hope and he  
06:45  
makes sure bail his wife and kids he  
06:47  
understand that as well  
06:48  
cuenca is a great husband and father he  
06:51  
makes sure kids he knew knew the roots  
06:52  
of her family line and reassured bail he  
06:55  
would never run off ever again he knew  
06:57  
or what could possibly happen if he did  
07:00  
in conclusion  
07:02  
Kunta has grown over time and gone  
07:04  
through multiple changes involving his  
07:06  
family becoming a slave finding the love  
07:08  
of his life and becoming a father Kunta  
07:10  
stop valuable lessons throughout roots  
07:12  
that define him as a person and as a  
07:14  
Mandinka warrior he knows that although  
07:16  
enslaved he will forever be a Mandinka  
07:18  
warrior within his heart and nothing  
07:20  
less  
English (auto-generated)

