

Superstar Athlete

The year is 1912, and you are a superstar athlete named Jack Johnson – the heavyweight-boxing champion of the world. You have thousands of adoring fans, but you also have many enemies, because you are a successful Black man in America during the Jim Crow Era.

For the past ten years, you have traveled around the world to make a name for yourself as a fighter. You even followed your rival on a boat to Australia, and you convinced him to give you a shot at the title.

Now that you are the champion, you are constantly traveling to big cities like New York and Chicago to make public appearances. Here's the problem: In 1910, a law was passed called the Mann Act. This law says that women cannot be transported across state lines for "immoral purposes." What does that have to do with you?

In 1912, most white people did not like to see interracial couples, and your girlfriend Lucille is white. The Mann Act was misused to arrest black men for having relationships with white women. So now if you travel to another state, there is a risk that you will be arrested. You love Lucille and you plan on getting married soon.

You must decide what to do. Will you stop traveling around the country to avoid any problems with the police? You won't be able to continue your career as a boxer if you cannot travel. Maybe you could settle down and start a new business with some of the money you have earned as a celebrity athlete.

Or will you take the risk and continue to travel with Lucille? You are at the peak of your career, and you love the thrill of winning in front of a cheering crowd. It would be hard to walk away from all of the fame and glory.

Superstar Athlete Response

Will you stay in your hometown, or will you take the risk and continue to travel with the woman you love? Maybe there is another option.

Write your response to the dilemma in the space below.

What will you do? Why will you do it?
