

10 Seconds

By Miriam Gonzales

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Inspired by the Imagination Stage Police and Youth Program

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Characters

Ray Henderson, 14 years old, Jimi's friend. Also plays: Grandma, Mom and Dad; student 1. African American

Jimi Roberts, 14 years old, Ray's friend; chorus. African American

Craig Leland, police officer. Also plays: Jimi's Dad; teen boy; student 2; chorus. African American

Samantha Kent, police officer. Also plays teen girl; Annie, 15 years old; Drama teacher, Ms. Martin; chorus. White/European American

Setting: Washington, DC; current day.

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RAY

I'm serious, man. My drama teacher's doin' auditions for a class play next week. All I have to do is memorize ten seconds of a monologue.

JIMI

What's that?

RAY

A monologue's like when a character talks a lot, for like a real long time in a play, they keep talkin' and talkin' and -

JIMI

Ah, yea, you'll be real good at that.

RAY

I'm goin' for the Super Hero part.

JIMI

A'right.

RAY

I'm gonna say my thing an' then --

(mike drop)

—I'm gonna blow up all y'all's labels 'bout me.

(fist bump)

Ok. Your turn. What're you gonna do?

ANNIE from chorus stands up.

JIMI

(dreamy as he gazes at ANNIE)

You really gotta ask?

RAY

Oh no.

RAY stops. JIMI freezes. Tries to erase ANNIE from the script/story.

RAY (cont'd)

No, no, no. No Annie. nope.

ANNIE retreats. DRAMA teacher stands in chorus.

RAY (cont'd)

(to DRAMA teacher)

I don't wanna hear it, Ms. Martin.

DRAMA TEACHER

Annie's a character in this day.

RAY

But --

DRAMA TEACHER

She's a part of Jimi's plan, his dreams.

RAY

But, but -- if she wasn't, if she hadn't--

DRAMA TEACHER

Life is like a play. Each character has their own needs, problems, hopes. People interact, affect one another. If your goal, Ray, is to share the story of this day, you simply can't avoid her,

(gestures to CHORUS)

or any of the characters, you simply can't--

RAY shushes TEACHER, she sits.

RAY

(to Jimi)

You really crushin' on Annie? You really like this guurl?

JIMI

I do.

RAY

Fine.

(writes her name back in to script)

JIMI

Everybody thinks I'm bad, Ray. That I look mean, act mean, always in trouble, they're all scared of me.

RAY

Uh-uh, not true.

JIMI