

10 Seconds

By Miriam Gonzales

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Inspired by the Imagination Stage Police and Youth Program

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Draft 16 (post-workshop)

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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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DAD

Nuthin's yours, boy! Nuthin'.

(a beat)

Now pull your damn pants up,

(pulling at his hoodie)

turn this smelly thing around and . . . wash all these clothes when you get home, you hear me?!?

JIMI takes his phone out of DAD's pocket.

JIMI

Yessir.

DAD exits.

JIMI (cont'd)

(punches the air hard)

I *hate* you.

RAY steps in. JIMI freezes.

RAY

Your Dad. Your Mom. Your temper, man, all of it. I mean that's why Leland came into your world in the first place.

(pause; into audience)

12, man. Yea, the other character in our day.

(writes)

Side for Ray #2
Starts here:**SCENE 3. The Metro.**

RAY paces back and forth, JIMI follows him.

JIMI

Aw, c'mon, Ray, you said you'd help me --

RAY

(paces)

I can't --only 16, 200 seconds until we do our thing --

JIMI

exactly--

RAY

and the train's gonna be here any minute, *and* I'm freakin', dude-- I'm forgettin' all my lines, *I gotta practice --*

JIMI

I do, too! You said you'd help me with "my delivery" — *you're the actor —*

RAY

Shhh.

(practices on his own)

JIMI

(scrolls phone, searching for poem)

Lemme read it once to you, real fast, okay --

(RAY ignores him, continues to practice)

where are you poem? Here you are. Thank god I stole my phone —

RAY

What?

JIMI

My Dad got all mad at me this mornin' an' took it from me. But I stole it back.

Gestures slyly picking RAY's pocket and taking his phone.

JIMI (cont'd)

I got the touch.

RAY

(grabs phone back)

Just focus already.

JIMI

Ah, forget you, where's Officer Leland? I'll practice with him.

(walks off)

RAY

Fine, okay, stop -- c'mon! I'm here for you, I am.

JIMI freezes.

(to himself, out into audience)