

Alliance Theatre

institute



Study Guide

Created as part of the Alliance Theatre's Dramaturgy by Students Program

Led by: Ebony Tucker, Teaching Artist,
with: Mrs. Kacy Bishop, Drama Teacher
and Advanced Theater students at North Paulding High School

By: Zora Howard

Pulitzer Prize Finalist

Directed by: Lileana Blain-Cruz

a Co-Production with Goodman Theatre

BUST is produced in association with Sonia Friedman productions,

Khaliah Neal and Thomas Swayne

February 13 - March 16, 2025
Alliance Theatre Coca-Cola Stage
1280 Peachtree Street NE, Atlanta, GA 30309

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Georgia Standards of Excellence, Grades 11-12

English Language Arts

- ELAGSE11-12RL1: Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
- ELAGSE11-12RL3: Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
- ELAGSE11-12RL5: Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
- ELAGSE11-12RL6: Analyze a case in which grasping point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).

Social Studies

- SSSocC1 Analyze forms of social inequality.
- SSSocC1.a Explain how unequal distribution of power and resources affects the life chances of individuals in that society.
- SSSocC1.b Analyze the sources and effects of stratification on the basis of social class, race and ethnicity, gender, age, and emotional, mental, and physical disabilities.

Theater

- TAHSFT.CN.1 Explore how theatre connects to life experiences, careers, and other content.
 - a. Examine how theatre reflects real life.
- TAHSFT.CN.2 Examine the role of theatre in a societal, cultural, and historical context.
 - a. Examine and apply theatrical theories, performances, and conventions from a variety of theatrical literature, historical periods, and cultures.
 - b. Explore the works of milestone playwrights and plays, and the relevance of historical theatre.
 - c. Recognize historical events that have influenced the role of theatre and how theatrical events have impacted cultural development.
 - d. Interpret cultural and historical research for use in a production.

Source: www.georgiastandards.org/GeorgiaStandards/Pages/default.aspx

About the Play



Disclaimer: Contains considerable explicit language, including derogatory language regarding race; depicts drinking alcohol and marijuana use; addresses issues related to police brutality and systemic racism.

BUST, a play full of laughter and dark reality, was written by Pulitzer Prize finalist Zora Howard and is set to make its world premiere at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre in 2025 before traveling to Chicago in May.

The story takes place in modern-day Huntsville, Alabama, where an older Black couple witnesses a police altercation which turns into an unexpected and surreal event that results in the disappearance of one of their neighbors. Simultaneously, a group of Black teens try to figure out the truth about the event and share it with the world to promote change, especially when a similar occurrence happens within the school. This play challenges people to “imagine a place” where they can define their own freedom.

This production is directed by Lileana Blain-Cruz, whose past projects include *War* at Yale Repertory, *Henry IV Part One* at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and most recently *The Listeners* at Opera Norway.

BUST is already a highly decorated play, having been named the 2022 Susan Smith Blackburn Prize Finalist and the 2022 L. Arnold Weissberger New Play Award Finalist.

Source: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/bust

About the Playwright



Zora Howard is an American writer and actress, born and raised in Harlem, New York. She began writing at a young age and, at just 13, was known as the youngest ever poet to ever win the Urban Word NYC Grand Slam Finals. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Yale University in 2014 and a Master of Fine Arts from the graduate acting program at the University of California in San Deigo.

Zora Howard's work has been developed at SPACE at Ryder Farm, The Mercury Store, The Lark, Ojai Playwrights Conference, Brown Arts Institute, and Cape Cod Theatre Project, among others. In 2020, her feature film *Premature* (2020 Film Independent John Cassavetes Award nominee), which she co-wrote with filmmaker Rashaad Ernesto Green, opened in theaters following its world premiere at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. Zora is the inaugural Judith Champion Fellow at Manhattan Theatre Club, a former Van Lier New Voices Fellow at the Lark Theatre, and a 2022 Lilly Award and Helen Merrill Award recipient.

Sources: www.goodmantheatre.org/artists/zorahoward,
www.imdb.com/name/nm3136974/bio/?ref_=nm_ov_ql_1, page73.org/show-pages/stew,
newplayexchange.org/users/19626/zora-howard, www.festwochen.at/zora-howard

Cast of Characters

RETTA (f): Black. Late 50s. A decades long resident of the Oakwood Hills Apartments & Townhomes.

REGGIE (m): Black. Late 50s. RETTA's husband. Doubles as MR. WOODS.

TRENT (m): Black. Teens. RETTA and REGGIE's grandson.

TOMLIN (m): white. Mid to late 40s. A recently demoted police officer in the Huntsville Police Department. Doubles as

JACK. RAMIREZ (m): Latino. Mid to late 30s. A recent transfer to the Huntsville Police Department. TOMLIN's partner.

BOOBIE (m): Black. Teens. TRENT's best friend. Hotep in development.

KRYSTAL (f): Black. Teens. Classmate of TRENT's. Major crush. Very smart.

ZEKE (m): Black. Teens. Classmate of TRENT's. Tries to be a bully, but really is a sweetie pie.

PAIGE (f): Black. Teens. Classmate of TRENT's. KRYTAL's best friend. Life of the party.

NEWSCASTER (f): white. 30s. Doubles as MS. PINTO. MS. PINTO (f): white, 30-40s. Teaches American History at Lee High School.

JACK (m): white, M, 40s. School security. Menacing.

MR. WOODS (m): Black, M, 60s. Regal in stature. Looks like Louis Gossett Jr. and sounds like James Earl Jones.

Source: www.alliancetheatre.org/production/2024-25/bust



Photo by : Greg Mooney

Character Connections

BUST Characters

RETTA

Retta is an older Black woman in her 50's. She is the wife of Reggie and she is the grandmother of Trent. She loves to be a gossip girl and is very religious.

REGGIE

Reggie is a Black man in his late 50's, he is also the grandfather of Trent, and the husband of Retta. He is a very protective of his family but is not as religious as Retta.

TRENT

Trent is a Black teen and is the grandson of Retta and Reggie. He is a key character in an unexpected event and comes across as very reserved but willing to stand up for the truth.

TOMLIN

Tomlin is a White man in his late 40s who is an aggressively racist police officer. He is very arrogant and selfish and is willing to break the rules to cover his actions.

RAMIREZ

Ramirez is a Latino man in his late 40's who has recently transferred to the Huntsville PD. He is a good cop and is faced with working with someone willing to break the law.

KRYSTAL

Krystal is a Black teen and Trent's classmate and crush. She is extremely smart feisty and assertive.

BOOBIE

Boobie is a Black teen and Trent's best friend. He is very unfiltered, talkative, loud, nerdy, and the class clown. Boobie is also a religious Muslim.

MS. PINTO

Ms. Pinto is a White woman in her 30s-40s and teaches American History at Lee High School. Her character is annoying, bossy, rude, unreasonable, and dramatic.

JACK

Jack is a White man in his late 40s and is Lee High School's security guard. He is very aggressive, violent and rough.

PAIGE

Paige is a young Black girl that is Trent's classmate and Krystal's best friend. She is known as the life of the party, and she is also super outgoing and energetic

ZEKE

Zeke is a Black teen in and the classmate and tries to be Trent's bully but is actually a sweetheart who tries to act tough.

MR. WOODS

Mr. Woods is a Black man in his mid 60s. His character is described by the author to look like Louis Gossett, Jr. and sound like James Earl Jones. Mr. Woods is very wise, regal in stature, and has profound emotional intelligence.

Vocabulary

| Word | Part of Speech | Definition | Context |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|---|
| Agonize | verb | To feel extremely anxious or worried about something | pg. 129 |
| Apocalypse | noun | The final and utter destruction of the world | pg. 83 |
| Blacked (out) | verb | To wake up with no memory of earlier events | When Trent is talking about the situation before coming through to the unknown he mentions how he just 'blacked'. pg. 81 |
| Buck dancing | verb | An Americanized folk dance originating in Appalachia, comparable to clogging | pg. 139 |
| Buck | verb | To resist or oppose obstinately; to object strongly | pg. 139 |
| Buick | noun | An automobile line known for large sedans | Retta references Mr. Woods old Buick as he drives by and she's gossiping on the phone. |
| Catalyst | noun | A person or thing that precipitates an event | pg. 5 |
| Chiclets | noun | A type of gum packaged in small rectangular pieces | Retta compares Steve Harvey's teeth to Chicklets pg. 49 |
| Constructive Interference | noun | A phenomenon where two waves travel in the same direction and are in phase with each other | pg. 126 |
| Contextualized | verb | To place or study in context | pg. 119 |

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|-----------------|--------|---|---|
| Deets | noun | The information/ The details. | Boobie asks Trent about the situation at his apartment complex. He asks for the 'deets'. pg. 45 |
| Discord | noun | Disagreement between people, Chaos | Pg. 128 |
| Enlightened | verb | Having or showing a rational, modern, and well-informed outlook, or being spiritually aware | Mr. Woods talks to Trent about how if he wishes to be truly happy and in peace, he must enlighten himself or be enlightened. pg. 120 |
| Exponentialized | verb | To become more and more rapid; to grow rapidly | pg. 124 |
| Flack | noun | Criticism | Tomlin responds to Ramirez's critiques about his way of handling things by shortly requesting him to not give him flack. pg. 45 |
| Heathen | noun | A person who doesn't belong to a widely held religion | Retta uses it towards Reggie in reference to his lack of belief as they talk about religion and the church. pg. 18 |
| Idly | adverb | With no particular purpose, reason, or foundation | pg. 59 |
| Indigo | noun | A color between blue and violet on the color spectrum | Used to describe the color of the base of the sunset that Trent sees with Mr. Woods. pg. 105 |
| Infiltrate | verb | To enter or gain access to a place surreptitiously and gradually, especially in order to acquire secret information | pg. 85 |

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|------------|---------------|--|--|
| Integrated | verb | Desegregated, especially racially | pg. 124 |
| Meditation | noun | A practice to calm oneself | Mr. Woods and Trent at one point meditate together to help release any stress or anger pg. 96 |
| Paraplegic | noun | To have paralysis of the legs and lower body due to issues with the spinal cord or nerves | Retta references someone being paraplegic while gossiping over the phone pg. 1 |
| Pertinent | adjective | Directly and significantly related to the matter at hand | pg. 94 |
| Pop rocks | noun | A popping candy popular during the 70's through the 90's that pop when in contact with liquid | pg. 39 |
| Reefer | noun | Marijuana | Retta uses the term as she scolds Reggie for smoking |
| Regionals | noun | An athletic contest involving competitors from a particular region | Brought up multiple times when Paige and Krystal are talking about dance and cheer pg. 41 |
| Sambo(ed) | noun/ verb | A derogatory label for a person of African descent; derived from Spanish. During the Jim Crow era, anti-black caricatures included Sambo who was depicted as a perpetual happy child who was incapable of living on his own. He was portrayed as a loyal and contented servant and so was often offered as a defense for slavery and segregation | Used to discuss behaviors that conform to stereotypes. "Mr. Woods: I am from a place. And in that place I cannot be stolen, I cannot be shackled, I cannot be sullied, I cannot be samboed." pg. 98 |

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|---------------|-----------|---|--|
| Step | noun | A type of rhythmic movement usually associated with sororities and fraternities at HBCU's which uses full body percussion | Paige and Krystal are both part of a step team at their school and they have a regional competition soon pg. 123 |
| Subordination | noun | The action or state subordinating or of being subordinate | pg. 98 |
| Sullied | verb | To damage the purity or integrity of; to defile | Mr. Woods talks to Trent about how he wants to go where he's safe and protected, unable to be affected by others corruption. pg. 98 |
| Tai chi | noun | A form of martial arts | Brought up multiple times by Boobie. pg. 119 |
| Unsolicited | adjective | Something which is unasked for. Typically unwanted or is used with a negative connotation | pg. 35 |
| Wack | verb | Slang; something that is crazy or absurd | pg. 105 |

Religious Terms

| Word | Part of Speech | Definition | Context |
|--------------|----------------|--|---|
| Ascent | verb | The process of rising from the earth into the heavens; implies death or transcendence | Trent's mentor urges him to ascend into his best self pg. 124 |
| Burning bush | noun | A Biblical symbol representing divine revelation and the presence of God | One of Trent's friends references the burning bush as a portent or omen, comparing it to the gravity of Trent's current situation pg. 39 |
| Crucify | verb | To sentence someone to death via nailing or binding them to a cross, most commonly identified with the death of Jesus in the Christian faith; can also mean to be subject to figurative death in terms of reputation | Tomlin is upset that the media will most likely use him as a scapegoat and destroy his reputation pg. 114 |
| Martyr | noun | A person who is killed or made to suffer for their religious or other beliefs | One of Trent's friends thinks that Trent will become a martyr because of his involvement with the incident pg. 40 |

Police Terms

| Word | Part of Speech | Definition | Context |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 10-86 | noun | Code for a missing person | Tomlin says this to dispatch as he explains that the suspect disappeared pg. 20 |
| BWC and Vehicle Code 32950 | noun | Abbreviation for a body-worn camera utilized in police work; the code requiring activation of the BWC during all enforcement stops or law enforcement-related activities. | Ramirez quotes the code to Tomlin to explain why he turned on his BWC during the traffic stop pg. 25 |
| Civil Duty | noun | Responsibilities and obligations of citizens to participate in their government and society. | One of Trent's friends calls on his sense of civic duty to share important information regarding the traffic stop. pg. 40 |
| Demerits | noun | Marks against someone for fault or offense | Tomlin reflects on past mistakes that added to his demerit count pg. 113 |
| Informant | noun | A person who gives information to another | Boobie thinks the police are trying to turn Zeke against the group and be their informant pg. 85 |
| Lateral | noun | An officer who transfers from another location, usually into a similar rank and pay level | Ramirez points out that he is not a rookie cop, but a lateral to show he has experience pg. 28 |
| Official capacity | noun | Official job or role | Ramirez visits Retta and Reggie but states that he isn't there in an |

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| | | | official capacity pg. 55 |
| Recant | verb | To formally withdraw or repudiate a statement | Officer Tomlin implies a desire to have Retta and Reggie recant their statement regarding Randy's traffic stop pg. 116 |
| Relieved of duty | verb | To be removed from a job or position due to wrongdoing or pending further investigation | Tomlin faces being "relieved of duty until further notice" based on Retta and Reggie's statement pg. 113 |
| Rookie | adjective | A person who is in their first year of work | Tomlin calls Ramirez a rookie and treats him as such pg. 114 |
| Statement | noun | A written or verbal account given to the police by a witness recalling events of a crime | The Huntsville Police Dept. release a statement regarding the fateful traffic stop pg. 117 |
| Unit 201 | noun | Officers Tomlin and Ramirez's call number | When calling dispatch after the traffic stop, Ramirez uses Unit 201 to identify himself pg. 29 |
| Vehicle Code 2146 | noun | Refers to the necessity of all drivers to stop at stop signs | Ramirez uses this code call to justify pulling over Randy pg. 22 |
| West Precinct | noun | A geographical area covered and patrolled by specific police officers or teams; A specific police headquarters | Retta and Reggie travel to the West Precinct to get information about the incident at Trent's school pg. 44 |

Places

Huntsville, Alabama

The main action in *BUST* takes place in Huntsville, Alabama. The city was founded in 1805 within the Mississippi Territory and became an incorporated town in 1811. It was designated as the first capital of Alabama when the state was admitted to the Union in 1819. Huntsville has a rich history, including its role in the pre-Civil War cotton economy and its significance during the American Civil War as the city was an important stop on the first railroad linking the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Huntsville functioned as a foundry and produced artillery for the Confederate army during the Civil War.

Today's city is home to 215,000 people and is represented by two Republican Senators. The three largest ethnic groups in the city are White (122k), Black (64.9k), and Hispanic (7.96k). The city's economy is driven by the three largest industries: professional/scientific/technical services, healthcare/social assistance, and manufacturing.

Sources: datausa.io/profile/geo/huntsville-al, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huntsville,_Alabama

Fictional Locations and their Real Context:

Lee High School – Huntsville, Alabama

Trent and his friends attend Lee High School in Huntsville. This may be based on the *real* Lee High School (2500 Meridian Street, Huntsville, AL) which opened in 1928 during the Jim Crow era. The school was named after the nearby Lee Highway, which in turn was named after the Confederate general Robert E Lee. In the early years of the school, a large painting of General Lee riding a horse and waving a Confederate flag was painted on the school's gymnasium wall. This image remained on the wall unchanged through state-mandated desegregation in 1963 and wasn't altered until 1974, when the pro-Confederate image was repainted to include the modern United States flag and the school's team mascot (the general) was repainted to represent a more generic character.

Source: www.huntsvillecityschools.org/o/lhs

Oakwood Hills Apartments and Townhomes and Café Avenue and Hill Street

Retta, Reggie, and Trenton live in the fictional Oakwood Hills Apartments and Townhomes. When Tomlin and Ramirez call in their location for Randy's traffic stop, they say they are located at Cave Avenue and Hill Street. These are real streets in the Greenhill community in Northeast Huntsville. In this area, according to the 1990 Census, 88% of the population are considered economically disadvantaged and 89% are minorities. Nearby, there are various religious centers, including an Apostolic Center, the Huntsville Islamic Center, and several AME churches.

When questioned as to why he moved from Fort Payne, Alabama to Huntsville, Officer Ramirez speaks of being a being a father of five with another baby on the way. The comparative pay for police shows almost a \$20,000 increase from Fort Payne to Huntsville, which may account for Ramirez's transfer.

DID YOU KNOW: The Alabama State Troopers did not become integrated until 1987 when they changed mandated testing for candidates ending segregation in the law force.



Photo by : Greg Mooney

Themes

The play *BUST* explores many different themes and topics surrounding the conversation of police brutality including racism, religion, culture, identity, and choice. Themes are important in literature because they are underlying messages which help the audience identify and reflect on the story's moral and conversational aspects.

Religion

- *Islam*

Islam is a religion that is followed by Muslims, who believe there is only one God (Allah) and their holy book is the Quran (pronounced Koh-ran) which contains the stories and teachings of Allah. The Quran's teachings were told to the prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel, and Muhammad wrote them down. The word Islam translates from Arabic as "submission to the will of God". Muslims pray 5 times a day. The names of these are: Al-Fajr, Al-Dhuhr, Al-Asr, Al-Maghrib, Al-isha. Muslims also participate in a month of fasting (Ramadan), which means they don't eat or drink from sunrise to sunset every day during the duration of the observation. They also follow "the five pillars of Islam" which include Shahada (to declare one's faith in God and belief in Muhammad), Salah (praying five times a day), Zakat (to give to those in need), Fasting (refraining from eating during specific times in Ramadan), and Hajj (making a pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once during a person's lifetime as long the person is physically able).



The Kabba in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.



Islamic symbol, originally associated with the Ottoman Empire, adopted by the Muslim religion to emphasize the importance of the lunar calendar.

- *Christianity*

Christians believe there is only one God. Their holy book is called the Bible, which is split into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Christians believe that God sent his son (the Messiah) Jesus to save the world and that he was crucified on the cross so he could offer forgiveness for everyone's sins. On the third day, he was resurrected according to the Bible and ascended to sit beside God in Heaven. The New Testament tells of the stories and miracles of Jesus and the effects of his legacy after his death and resurrection.

One of the most famous stories in the Bible is the Burning Bush (described in the book of Exodus, Old Testament) in which God set a bush on fire as a symbol of God igniting Moses's faith. The Battle of Jericho (Book of Joshua) is also mentioned in *BUST* by the character Boobie. In this story, the Israelites lay siege to the city of Jericho. They were instructed by God to walk around the walls of Jericho once a day for six days and seven times on the seventh day. As they finished their seventh walk, the walls surrounding the city fell. This story is often featured in African American spirituals symbolizing the fall of oppressors.

Culture

Culture is the set of values, beliefs, and practices that people share and use to define them as a group or society. *BUST* discusses African American culture and how oppression and prejudice can affect Black populations, as well as the idea of the existence of a place where there was an escape from these harsh interactions. Two of the characters are involved in their school's step team. Step is a high-energy dance form which involves a group of participants creating percussion using their entire bodies (stomps, claps, slapping parts of the body, etc.) to create various rhythms. This dance style is associated with Black fraternities and sororities on HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) campuses. Language, including slang, is a defining part of culture as well. Within the Black community, it may be acceptable to use the n-word while talking with each other, but it is considered a racial slur when used by a person of a different race. There is a moment where the characters are talking about how they want to shout something Black, and they decide on "Boomshakalaka" to express their feelings on the subject.

Identity

A few characters experience a moment where their sense of self, their role in their world and basic morals are tested because of actions that take place during the play. Other characters undergo a physical and spiritual encounter which makes them refocus on their identity. One character verbalizes this search for identity in the line "You are here. You are out of context" tying in his experiences of being called the wrong name for the majority of his life.

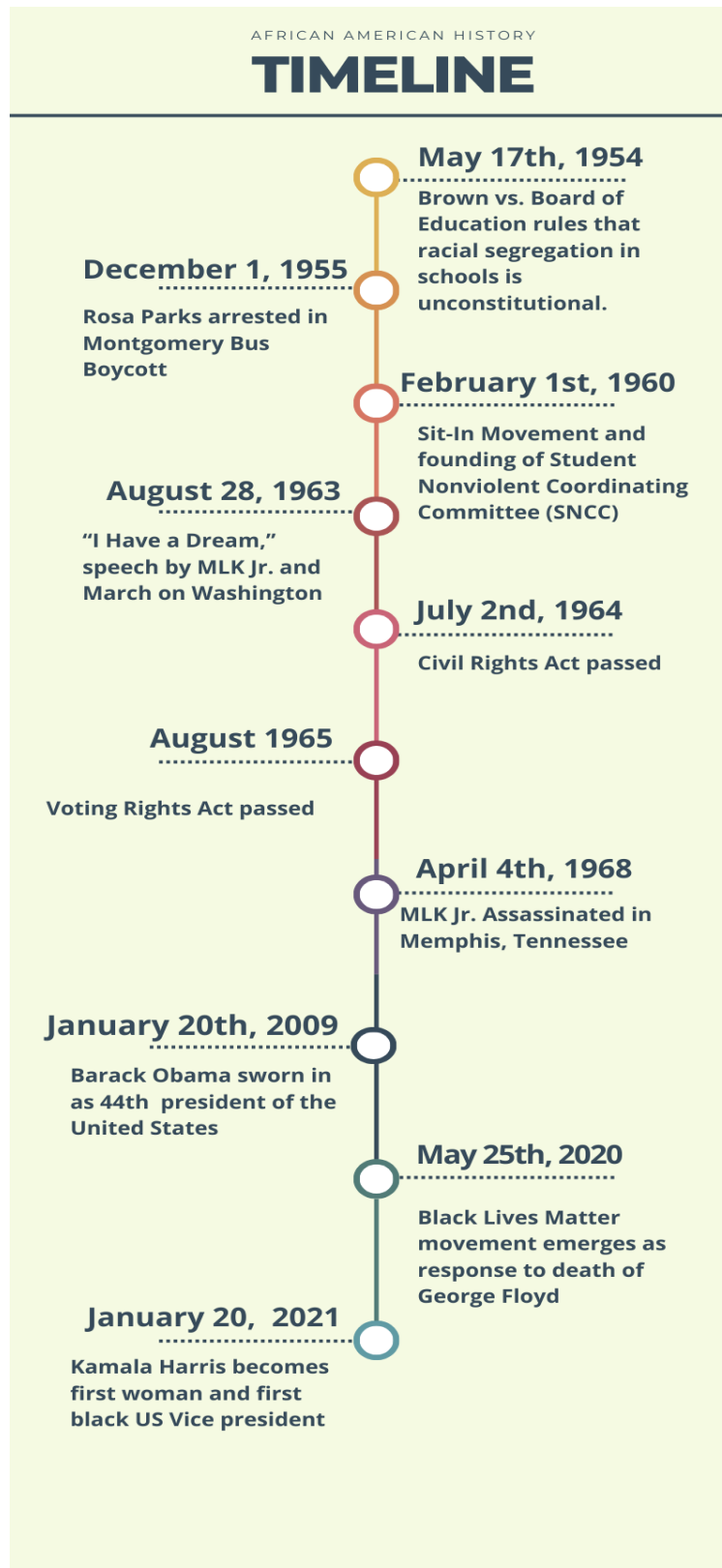
Choices

Throughout the play, many characters are faced with making decisions, some more difficult than others. Some characters, like Tomlin, make poor or harsh decisions in the heat of a moment that come back to haunt him. He constantly justifies his choices as being correct in the moment but finally faces some consequences for his actions. Boobie makes the choice to post a divisive video on social media which inadvertently leads to complications for several other characters. Mrs. Pinto chooses to call security on Krystal while she is taking a test, leading to a violent encounter. Other characters are faced with difficult moral decisions that directly effect events in the play.

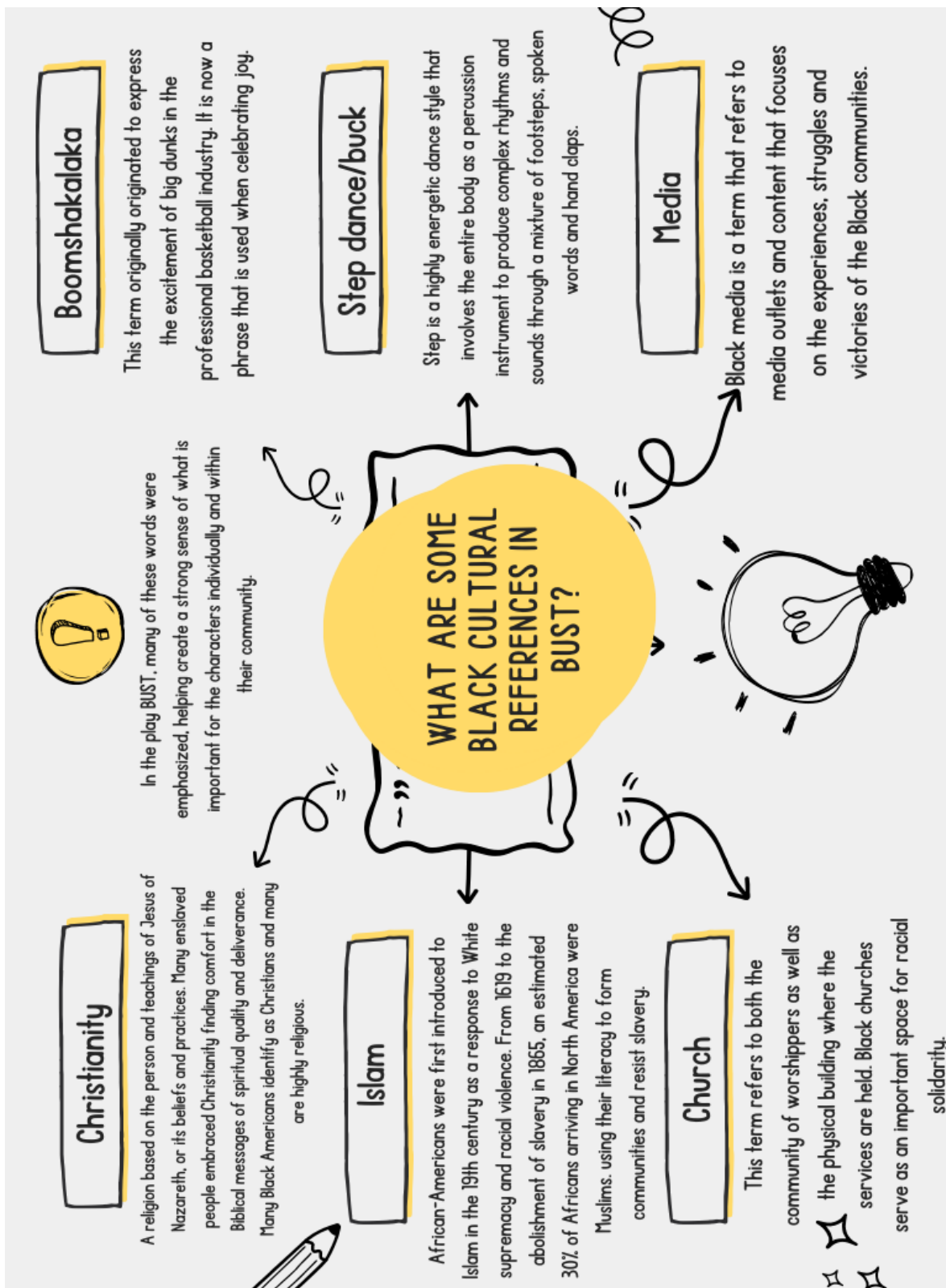
Sources: www.britannica.com/place/Mecca, www.history.com/topics/religion/history-of-christianity,
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Photo by: Kathleen Covington



Sources: www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-52905408, www.history.com/topics/black-history/civil-rights-movement-timeline



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Books related to *BUST*

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee.

The unforgettable novel set in the 1930's in a southern town is compassionate, and deeply moving. Young Scout Finch watches her father Atticus as he defends a Black man accused of a crime against a white woman. The story takes readers to the root of human behavior, ranging from innocence to experience, kindness and cruelty, love and hatred.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas.

Sixteen year old Starr lives in two worlds, torn between the poor neighborhood where she was raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The delicate balance is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the shooting of her unarmed best friend by a police officer.

The Watsons Go To Birmingham--1963 by Christopher Paul Curtis

The Watsons, a Black family of five in Flint Michigan, make the decision to move one of their sons to Birmingham Alabama to live with Grandma until he straightens out his behavior. The family has no idea that they are about to be caught up in one of the darkest moments in the American Civil Rights Movement.



Movies and Songs expanding on themes in “BUST”

| | |
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| <p><i>Remember The Titans</i></p> | <p>In 1971, Virginia high school football was everything to the people of Alexandria. But when the school board was forced to integrate an all-black school with an all-white one, the very foundation of the community’s tradition was put to the test.</p> |
| <p><i>Detroit</i></p> | <p>Fact-based drama set during the 1967 Detroit riots in which a group of rogue police officers respond to a complaint with retribution rather than justice on their minds.</p> |
| <p><i>The Color Purple</i></p> | <p>A tale spanning forty years in the life of Celie, an African American woman living in the South who survives incredible abuse and bigotry.</p> |
| <p><i>The Help</i></p> | <p>An aspiring author during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's decides to write a book detailing the African American maids' point of view on the White families for whom they work, and the hardships they go through on a daily basis.</p> |
| <p><i>Hidden Figures</i></p> | <p>A story based on true events. Three female African American mathematicians play a pivotal role in astronaut John Glenn's launch into orbit as they deal with racial and gender discrimination at work.</p> |
| <p>“Freedom” By: Beyoncé</p> | <p>This song is an anthem for African American empowerment. The lyrics address the BLM movement, police brutality, racism and injustice, and slavery in the US.</p> |

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|--|---|
| <p>“This Is America” By: Childish Gambino</p> | <p>This song critiques social problems in America as it explores the contradictions in the music industry and the reality of violence, racism, and oppression.</p> |
| <p>“The Bigger Picture” By: Lil Baby</p> | <p>This is a protest song that was released in the wake of the murder of George Floyd. This song shows solidarity with the BLM protest, calling for justice against police brutality in the US.</p> |

Sources: blog.augsburgfortress.org/16-books-by-black-authors-about-race-religion-and-culture, www.imdb.com, chipublib.bibliocommons.com/v2/list/display/199702383/1806471449



Photo by : Greg Mooney

Post-Show Discussion Questions

1. Which major theme from the play resonated with you most, and why? How do you think meditation fits into the themes we discussed as well as some themes you thought of yourself?
2. How are any of these themes evident in your life?
3. Mr. Woods “busts” into another plane of existence. What do you think this action symbolizes?
4. Is it ever okay to question authority? In what circumstances?
5. Which do you value most, justice or peace?
 - a. Can you think of art that represents justice or peace? How do they portray these concepts?
6. Would you be willing to risk your peace for justice? Or your justice for peace?



Photo by: Kathleen Covington

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