

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

TIME PERIOD: New Millennium/ 21st Century

LOCATION/SETTING: Louisiana Cedar High School

THEMES: Social justice, links between bias and identity, the complexities of race, individual freedoms, homophobia, and what justice means when biases have been normalized

Short SYNOPSIS: When a black student disrupts the status quo at her high school by occupying space typically reserved for white students, her community erupts in hate speech, violence, and chaos. Inspired by the Jena Six case, which roiled tensions in Louisiana in 2006. A group of students who react to a notice of nooses being hung from a famous tree planted in their schoolyard and how that relates to racial problems in the south and also discusses another major social problem, homophobia after an attempted murder to a transferred homosexual student.

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION:

RAYLYNN: Female, African-American, 18

TORIA: Female, White, 18

ASHA: Female, White, 18

JUSTIN: Male, African-American, 18

COLIN: Male, White, 18

DE'ANDRE: Male, African-American, 18

District Attorney (can be voice over)

Principal Miller (can be voice over)

The character descriptions are very short and sweet because this is an ensemble piece where (according to the author) the desire is that each actor, along with the director, will bring their own signature to the work.

This play is filled with music, poetry and movement. If you are called back you will be asked to dance. I'm not looking for dancers but actors who can move well.