

SCENE 1

SLIDE OF MASTHEAD: WYANDOTTE COUNTY, KANSAS, 1879.  
Background music of period as scene opens.

Setting: Bare Stage

Characters: Alice  
Kansas Legislator (white male)

(Lights up.)

(The Legislator is reading a newspaper as Alice passes by looking at something written on a piece of paper; she is clearly unsure where she is going.)

LEGISLATOR

(watching her for a moment)

'Morning, young lady. Anything I can help you with?

ALICE

Uh, good morning, sir. Can you tell me where I can find the Board of Education?

LEGISLATOR

Now, you don't look old enough to have children ready for school.

ALICE

For myself, I mean. To enroll. I'll be fourteen years old come November.

LEGISLATOR

Are you new here?

ALICE

Yes, sir. We just this week arrived from Tennessee.

LEGISLATOR

Exodusters then? That's our name for you good people, coming up here to Kansas to settle from the South. If you're 14, you must have been born right after the end of the War Between the States.

ALICE

Yes, sir. My Daddy likes to joke that I waited to be born until I could be born free. We have just got here. We heard about Kansas.